

# Election called in Canada after defeat of Government

dians have been plunged into a winter on by the defeat of the fledgling Progressive Conservative minority Government in Ottawa. Conservatives fell on a no-confidence motion in the Budget, which opposition parties said precipitate an economic depression.

## Trudeau may again lead Liberals

John Best  
Dec 14  
It has been forced into another election campaign of the fall of Mr Joe Clark, minority Progressive Conservative Government after four seven months in

selection is to be on Feb. 8. Mr. Clark announced Monday of Commons to the Parliament was dissolved by the Governor-General, the Liberals party, the Opposition, was instrumental in bringing down the Government, the election call it in a leadership

Mr. Pierre Trudeau, former Prime Minister, re-asked as leader and election to choose a successor was not scheduled to until March.

the Liberal caucus meeting to choose an in- leader, and there was chance that Mr. Trudeau would carry on, at the first part of the campaign.

Government fell late last in a Commons motion of confidence sponsored by the Democratic Party.

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The opposition parties, however, said the Budget posed a danger of economic depression. Social Credit, a party based in rural Quebec, decided to let the Government fall because of the big increase in tax on petrol and other transport fuels.

Immediately after the Commons vote, Mr. Clark went on radio to announce that he would see Mr. Ed Schreyer, the Governor-General, this morning to seek the dissolving of Parliament.

In a bitter statement, Mr. Clark said: "The opposition parties have decided to disrupt the nation's business... Only six months ago Canadians voted to change the Government because they wanted to change the direction of our country. By their action tonight, the opposition parties are saying Canadians were wrong to make that decision."

Leading article, page 13

## Goldsmith role in oil deal, Israel radio says

From Christopher Walker  
Jerusalem, Dec 14

Israel radio reported today that negotiations are under way between the Israeli Government and an international oil company controlled by Sir James Goldsmith over a controversial joint oil prospecting venture.

According to a brief report, the deal could provide Israel with up to 2 million tonnes of oil a year, about a quarter of its annual consumption. This was exactly the amount lost last month when the Alma field, in the Gulf of Suez, was handed back to Egypt under the terms of the Camp David agreement.

The Israeli military censor has prevented the naming of the country where the venture will be based, but it is known to be outside Europe.

A spokesman for Sir James's holding company, Generale Occidentale, said in Paris last night that any suggestion of an oil deal with the Israeli Government was "nonsense."

The radio report said that Sir James's company already had oil prospecting rights in the country where the venture would be based.

If the deal is successful, it will be a considerable boost to the ailing Israeli economy. Since the overthrow of the Shah, and the cutting of supplies from Iran, the Israelis have been anxiously looking for willing foreign oil suppliers. The country is denied access to Arab oil because of the Arab boycott.

Israel has no oil of its own and depends on outside sources for all but 2 per cent of its energy needs. Egypt has pledged to maintain supplies from the Alma field, but the price has been guaranteed only for the first year, and the supply is susceptible to any unanticipated breakdown in the Middle East peace process.

The Budget, described as realistic by Mr. John Crosbie, the Finance Minister, did not cut income taxes as much as the Conservatives promised in the election campaign. It nearly quadrupled the petrol excise tax to 25 cents (10 pence) a gallon, proposed more than to double crude oil prices over a four-year period and imposed rigid new controls on Government spending.

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Leading article, page 13



Major-General John Acland, the British commander of the Commonwealth ceasefire monitoring force in Southern Rhodesia, conferring with staff officers in Salisbury yesterday.

## New crisis could wreck Rhodesia accord

By David Spanier  
Diplomatic Correspondent

A serious dispute over Lord Carrington's ceasefire plan erupted at the Southern Rhodesia constitutional conference last night, which threatens to wreck the entire settlement today.

The Patriotic Front said that they would refuse to sign the ceasefire today, unless the British side moved to accept its demands on the location of its forces, to take account of their operational strength in the country, and that Lord Carrington's package was that they wanted 31 bases for their forces in the ceasefire plan.

The British proposals, which

11 am, and that no further negotiation is possible.

Denouncing the British proposals as unreasonable and the initial conduct of Lord Soames as Governor as "racist", the Patriotic Front spokesmen said last night the crux of the dispute was that they wanted 31 bases for their forces in the ceasefire plan.

The British proposals, which gave the Patriotic Front only 15 assembly areas were drawn up before the guerrilla commanders had submitted their figures for their forces, and was, said the spokesman, therefore completely unrealistic.

The Patriotic Front claims, further, that while the British had estimated its forces at 1,000 for each assembly area, the total was far higher, and their forces far more widespread than Britain had believed.

"Once we move our forces we harm ourselves in two ways,"

Mr. Musarurwa, the Patriotic

Front spokesman, said. "We jeopardize the lives of our men and women, and we harm ourselves politically by moving out of areas which the other side will fill."

Dr. Edisson Zwobga, spokesman for Mr. Mugabe's wing, said that their position was reasonable and valid and that if necessary they would take their case before the Security Council.

He claimed that a gigantic plot against the Patriotic Front was being furthered by an unholy alliance of Bishop Muzorewa, Mrs. Thatcher, Lord Carrington and Mr. Peter Botha, the South African Prime Minister.

A British spokesman said that any suggestion that Britain was complicit in massacre was contemptible.

Salisbury report, page 4

## Art dealer arrested with 'lost' Tintoretto

From Michael Leapman  
New York, Dec 14

An Israeli art dealer was charged here today with trying to sell a Tintoretto masterpiece which had been missing since its disappearance from Dresden Museum, East Germany, in 1945. He was arrested in a hotel room yesterday while allegedly trying to sell the canvas to an undercover agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for \$250,000 (about £120,000)—roughly quarter of its estimated market value.

The Tintoretto, "The Holy Family with Saint Catherine and St. Dorothy," is one of up to a dozen paintings of exceptional value which vanished from Germany after the Second World War, and have been rumoured to be on the market here for several months.

Investigations are at an early stage, but it seems that the paintings were taken from Dresden by a member of the Soviet occupation force in 1945 and hidden in Russia for more than 20 years. Earlier this year they were believed to have been taken to Israel among the possessions of an emigrating Soviet Jewish family.

The remaining canvases in that group have not been identified. Among the paintings from Dresden unaccounted for since 1955 are several Van Dyck, an important Correggio and Courbet's "The Stone Breakers."

Many of the art works in Dresden were destroyed by allied bombing. Of those that survived, the most valuable were confiscated by the occupying Russians, who returned them to Dresden in 1955. It appears that an enterprising Russian soldier or official may have diverted some of the paintings into his own custody at the time of their removal from Dresden.

At a preliminary hearing today the arrested dealer, named as Raymond Vinokur, of Tel Aviv, said the painting was sold by a Russian soldier to Joseph Silberman, who now lives in a Tel Aviv suburb. Mr. Silberman had brought it to Israel as his property and Mr. Vinokur was acting on his behalf.

Bail was set at \$50,000 (nearly £25,000) and Mr. Vinokur was

Continued on page 5, col 2

## 4 Americans shot dead in Istanbul

From Sinan Fisik  
Ankara, Dec 14

Four Americans were killed in an Istanbul suburb today in one of the worst acts of terrorism ever aimed at foreigners in Turkey. The victims, identified as James Clark, a non-commissioned officer in the United States armed forces, and Mr. Elmer Cooper, Mr. Robert French and Mr. James Smith, civilian employees of the Boeing company, were cut down by machinegun fire in the Marmara Sea. They had stepped off a service bus which brought them from the Nato communications relay station of Çakmakli, outside Istanbul, to their home.

Their assailants, three men and a woman, escaped in a car after the attack. Police said that 46 shots were fired at the Americans, and residents of the block of flats where the victims lived opened fire on the terrorists with shotguns. Some may have been wounded, they said.

## New York ban on boxing after death

From Our Own Correspondent  
New York, Dec 14

Boxing has been banned in New York State until reforms are instituted which would prevent incidents such as one which led to the death of a boxer last month. The fighter, Willie Classen, died five days after he was knocked out, instead of being knocked down, in a bout at Felt Forum, part of the Madison Square Garden complex.

Mr. Roy Goodman, a member of the State senate, held two weeks of hearings on Classen's death and concluded that it was a preventable tragedy.

The boxer had been badly hurt in the head by his opponent, Wilford Scypion, in the ninth round, but was allowed to return for the tenth, when he absorbed more severe punishment. He suffered severe brain damage and never regained consciousness after falling to the canvas.

Six weeks before that bout, Classen had been badly mauled in a bout at the Albert Hall, London, against Tony Sibson, the British middleweight. He was knocked down in the first round and twice in the second. At Mr. Goodman's inquiry the two ringside doctors admitted that they were not neurologists and did not feel confident in treating Classen. One of the

recommendations for reform is that all ringside doctors, as well as referees and officials, should undergo an eight-hour neurological training course. Other recommendations include the automatic suspension of a boxer for 90 days after he has been knocked out, instead of the present 30 days.

Our Boxing Correspondent writes: Boxing in Britain is subject to strict medical control. If a boxer is knocked out or takes severe punishment he is suspended for a minimum of 21 days, after which he is given a complete physical, including a neurological check. A report is then made to the British Board of Control on his fitness to resume boxing.

After the Albert Hall bout, Classen was examined by Dr. Adrian Whitson, the board's senior medical officer. Classen complained of a blurring of vision but said that he would have it attended to in New York. Dr. Whitson told him that he could not leave without seeing an eye specialist in Britain and the boxer agreed to go to Moorfields Eye Hospital with a letter from Dr. Whitson. Classen did not attend Moorfields. This was done by Dr. Whitson, who checked with the London Hospital after Classen's defeat in New York.

The man, an Iraqi according to Scotland Yard, was stopped by customs men in Terminal Three.

The British Airports Authority said he was carrying explosives and detonators.

The whole of the Terminal Three arrivals area was evacuated and the man was being questioned by customs and Special Branch officers. It was not known whether the explosives were in the form of a bomb.

Later, passengers were allowed back into the arrivals building.

The explosives, weighing between 1lb and 2lb, were believed to have been concealed in tubes of instant shaving foam, found on a man who walked from a Middle Eastern Airlines flight from Beirut.

The explosives were packed separately from the detonators.

## Arthur Ashe has heart operation

New York, Dec 14.—Arthur Ashe, former Wimbledon and United States Open tennis champion, had heart surgery here today and was reported in a satisfactory condition. He had three grafts in arteries.

Mr. Ashe, aged 26, who suffered a heart attack last July 31, was admitted to a Florida hospital last week. Reuter.

Law Report, page 5

## E Germans jail journalist 'spy'

Berlin, Dec 14.—Peter Felten, a West German freelance journalist, was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment today by a military court in East Berlin on charges of spying against East Germany.

He is the sixth West German this year to have been jailed by an East German military court. —Agence France-Presse.

Law Report, page 5

Credit: AP/Wide World

Records, page 12

Reviews, by Joan Charch, Paul Griffith, John Higgins, Robert Layton, William Mann and Stanley Sade

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## HOME NEWS

## Man wanted after IRA bombing offensive last year held in Operation Otis, Yard says

By a Staff Reporter

One of 18 people detained in the anti-terrorism round-up this week was Mr Gerry Tuite, wanted for questioning after the IRA bombing campaign in England a year ago. He is high on Scotland Yard's wanted list.

Police had information that the Provisional IRA had plans for a Christmas bombing offensive in English cities. People were detained in London, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham and Southampton.

Commander Peter Duffy, head of the anti-terrorist squad, said: "We had reason to believe that acts would be taking place in the near future, possibly within the next few days."

Mr Gilbert Kelland, Assistant Commissioner (Crime) at Scotland Yard, said the public should stay alert. The police wanted to hear from anyone who had been asked to sell radio-control equipment. What they were looking for was equipment similar to that which detonated the bomb in the boat belonging to Lord Mountbatten of Burma.

The police also wanted to hear from people who had been approached by a man, or a man and a woman, about renting a flat.

No explosives were found during the police raids, code-named Operation Otis. Mr Kelland said that Mr Tuite was seized with three other men, Robert Storey, Robert Campbell and Richard Glenholmes, at a house in Holland Park. All four were Irish, normally lived in Ireland and had arrived in England recently.

A photo-fit picture of Mr Tuite appears on a poster circulated since last February.

Police had been anxious to question "Gerry" Tuite, 35, alleged to be an alias of Mr Tuite, about three car bomb explosions in Central London last December, and bombings at Greenwich gasworks and an oil store at Canvey Island in January.

Mr Kelland said he expected that criminal charges would be brought shortly against some of those detained.

Operation Otis, he said, owed its success to the teamwork of the anti-terrorist squad, the Special Branch, the Special Patrol Group, English provincial forces, the RUC and the Garda Síochána.

Birmingham police said last night that one of two men detained had been freed; in Liverpool one of four people held has been released; and one of four held in Southampton has also been allowed to go.

In the High Court yesterday a man and two women detained in the round-up were given leave to apply for writs of habeas corpus releasing them from detention on the ground that they are being held unlawfully.

But a plea that the case should be heard at once on the

ground that the detention was not valid under the Prevention of Terrorism Act was rejected by Lord Justice Shaw and Mr Justice Woolf. The hearing was adjourned until Tuesday to enable the police to file evidence and be represented.

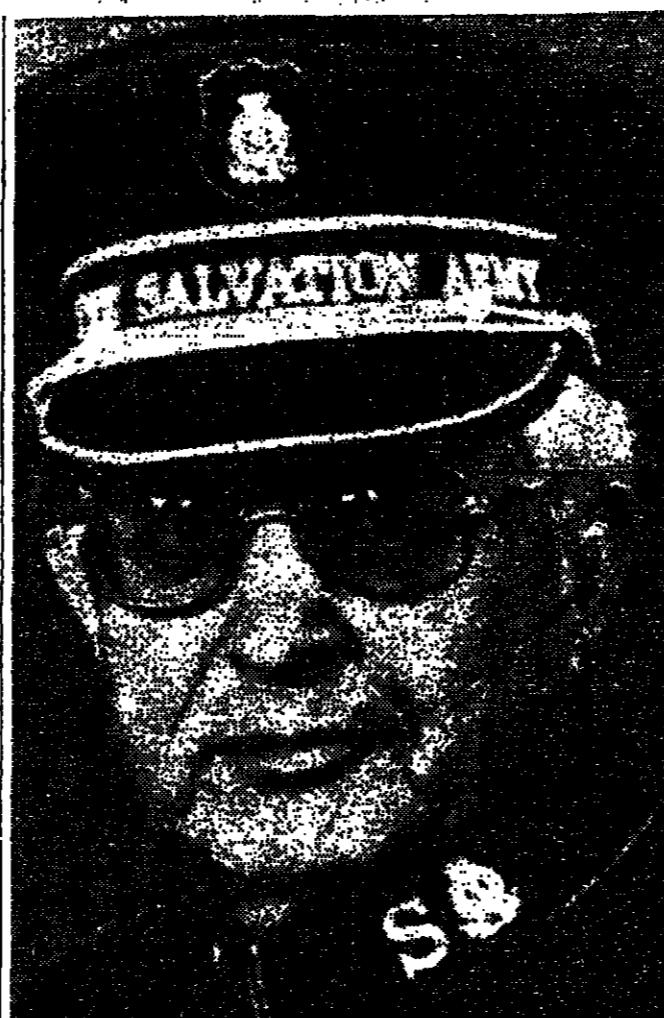
The three who made the applications were Patrick Prendiville, aged 33, deputy editor of the news magazine, *Weekly Hibernalia*; Marie Theresa Melia, aged 27, of Sulgrave Road, Hammersmith; and Jacqueline O'Malley, aged 30 of Wilshaw Street, Notting Hill.

Lord Justice Shaw said the hearing had been told that the three were being detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and that the Home Secretary had authorized detention for five more days. At this stage, he said, the court could not consider allegations of unlawful detention.

Mr Patrick O'Connor, counsel for Mr Prendiville, said that an adjournment would render the habeas corpus procedure meaningless and would enable the police to fob off the court.

The officer in charge of the case had been quoted as saying that the police raids had been a preemptive strike to prevent a bombing campaign.

"But taking out of circulation people against whom there is no evidence, at the moment, to justify reasonable suspicion or a charge something the court should not permit," Mr O'Connor said.



Salvation Army chief: Commissioner John Needham, who is to take over as leader of Salvation Army activities in Britain on January 1. He succeeds Commissioner Geoffrey Dalziel, who is retiring. Commissioner Needham was born in Ilkeston, Derbyshire, and moved to the United States at the age of seven with his Salvation Army officer parents.

## Police investigate Welsh arson link

From Tim Jones

Cardiff

Police in Wales yesterday were examining a possible link between Welsh extremists and the IRA after confirming that four fires which destroyed holiday homes in north and west Wales were started deliberately.

A senior police officer said yesterday: "We have known for some time that some young Welsh extremists and the IRA after confirming that four fires which destroyed holiday homes in north and west Wales were started deliberately.

The police are concerned particularly that militant Welsh activists may be embarking on a campaign of arson with advanced incendiary technology taught to them by the IRA.

The fires are a serious escalation in a campaign against holiday homes. Until this week, activists protesting against English money depriving Welsh people of homes have only daubed anti-English slogans and blocked keyholes with quick-action glue.

It is possible that the fires could have been timed to coincide with today's rally at Cilmeri in mid-Wales where

nationalists will gather to commemorate the rout of Llewelyn ap Gruffydd, the last Welsh Prince of Wales, whose defeat effectively ended Welsh opposition to English rule.

The latest raid has been attributed in the past by a strong Irish contingent and today plain-clothes officers will mingle with the marchers.

Forensic science experts spent much of yesterday sifting through the charred wreckage of the four homes, but they refused to say what kind of materials or devices were used to start the fires.

Police in Wales will pay special attention to holiday homes, most of which are occupied for only a few weeks a year, but with more than 7,000 such retreats in Gwynedd alone, total surveillance is impossible.

Another possibility being investigated by police is that the arson was the first wave of a new campaign by Mudiad Amddiffyn Cymru (MAC) - The Movement to defend Wales, an organization formed in 1963, which has blown up many pipelines carrying water to England.

## European court upholds ban on pornography

By Our Legal Correspondent

The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg has ruled that an EEC member state is entitled to ban the import of pornography without violating the rules governing the free movement of goods within the European Community.

The ruling was given in a case referred to the European Court by the House of Lords. Mr Maurice Hume and Mr John Derby had appealed against their conviction for importing pornography on the ground that the customs legislation was in breach of the Treaty of Rome, which prohibited trade restrictions.

The decision in Luxembourg means that the House of Lords will be able to decide on the men's appeals.

The European Court said that although Article 30 of the Treaty banned restrictions on imports, Article 36 allowed member states to impose prohibitions which were justified on the ground of public morality.

Governments could therefore lawfully ban articles of an indecent or obscene character, as understood by their domestic law.

## Bhutto son guilty of bomb hoax call

Shahawaz Bhutto, the student son of Pakistan's former prime minister, Mr Ali Bhutto, was found guilty at the Inner London Crown Court yesterday of making a hoax telephone call.

Mr Bhutto, aged 21, of Lowndes Square, Chelsea, London, was conditionally discharged for two years and ordered to pay up to £1,000 prosecution costs for telling the operator there was a bomb at 10 Downing Street.

## Mr Atkins may yet save his power conference

From Christopher Thomas

Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, may be on the edge of an agreement that could save his proposed constitutional conference on power devolution.

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, has accepted an invitation to meet Mr Atkins at Stormont Castle today, but there were doubts last night whether he would make it in time from Strabane, where he has been attending the European Parliament.

However, Mr John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, will be there to see if the minister has any more to offer on the critical issue of an Irish dimension being included in any devolution agreement.

It is widely assumed that today he will decide whether any meaningful conference can be arranged. There are suggestions that the Government might attempt to go ahead with the Democratic Unionists and the Alliance Party, if forced to do so by the hope of encouraging the Official Unionists to join later.

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## HOME NEWS

## MP alleges 'cloak of secrecy and fear' over clash at prison

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent  
Evidence of growing trouble in prisons included accusations yesterday that prison officers were dictating policy to a "craven" Home Office, which had also sought to silence individuals speaking out about tough new action against protesting prisoners.

Speaking of a "cloak of secrecy and fear", Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York and a former Home Office minister, called in a letter to the Home Secretary for a public inquiry into trouble at Wormwood Scrubs which resulted in injuries to 54 prisoners and 11 prison officers.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk and chairman of two parliamentary bodies, the All-Party Peas Affairs Group and the Parliamentary Civil Liberties Group, said the Home Office should withdraw its demands for the resignation of Mr John Pollitzer and Miss Karen Douglas-Scott as voluntary workers at Wormwood Scrubs. Pressure was brought to bear on them after they broadcast about the violence.

Mr Kilroy-Silk also said that the refusal of prison officers at Pucklechurch to allow Mr Rodney Morgan, a member of the Board of Visitors, to carry out his legal duties was a gross abuse of power.

Last night Mr Kenneth Daniel, general secretary of the Prison Officers Association, said: "It is nonsense to say the POA is dictating policy in prisons".

In a speech at Chester, Mr Kilroy-Silk listed recent action by prison officers. He said the Scottish prison officers had passed a resolution preventing children from visiting their parents and members of the POA at Broadmoor Hospital had prevented discharged patients from visiting their consultant, welfare officers and patient friends. Members of the association, he said, forced the closure of the visitors' centre at Pentonville. Family visits were still being pre-

vented at Styal. Free access to Wakefield prison by probation officers and welfare officers had been prevented.

He called on Mr Whitelaw to publish full details of illegal action by prison officers and urged him to reassert control over the service.

Mr Lyon, chairman of the Labour Campaign for Criminal Justice, has told Mr Whitelaw of his concern at revelations that "a specially equipped squad of prison officers, with rifles, shields and clubs, had attacked a peaceful demonstration in Wormwood Scrubs. During on August 31, had injured many prisoners and had destroyed prisoners' property.

He said his letter was not a call for persecution of individual officers. The indications were that the prison department had adopted in secrecy a brutal policy with the formation and use of the squad.

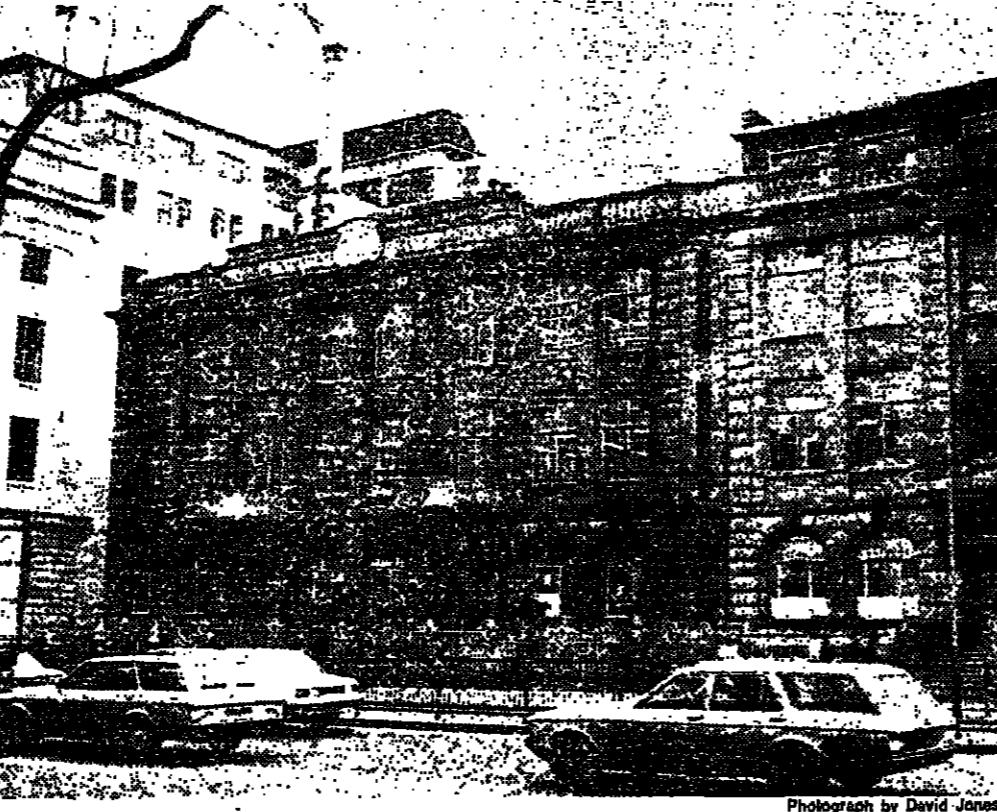
The National Association for Mental Health (Mind) has written to the Royal Hospital Management Review team to recommend that the nursing staff and Prison Officers' Association should not dictate clinical or hospital policy.

The review team should indicate which areas of policy are and are not appropriate for POA influence."

Mr Daniel, of the association, said last night that comment could not be made directly about the Wormwood Scrubs incident because an official inquiry was proceeding.

Generally, however, the riot at Hull prison in 1976 has made it obvious that officers should be trained more in the handling of disturbances which could, as happened there and at Gartree, develop into serious violence with dangerous missiles being hurled at officers.

Accordingly they were issued with protective clothing and shields when it was deemed necessary. Teams of officers at a number of establishments had received training in the minimum use of force for reinforcement of any neighbouring prison when appropriate.



Unity House, headquarters of the National Union of Railwaysmen. Photograph by David Jones

## Campaign to save rail union office

By John Young

Planning Reporter

A campaign is likely to be launched to prevent the impending demolition of Unity House, the headquarters of the National Union of Railwaysmen, in Euston Road, London.

An attempt some months ago to have the building listed as of architectural and historic interest was rejected by the Department of the Environment.

A union official said yester-

day that the decision to replace the historic headquarters had been taken with great reluctance. But the building had been extended twice with the result that much of the interior consisted of wells, stairs and corridors.

The high-ceilinged rooms were difficult to heat and working conditions for staff were noisy and uncomfortable. The union had sought professional advice on whether the structure could be retained and renovated, but had been told it was impracticable.

Only part of the new building would be required for the union's use and the rest would be let to tenants. It was intended to incorporate as many as possible of the present building's interior features, notably the panelled boardroom.

## 'Blue Peter' Kampuchea appeal raises £2.4m

By Kenneth Gosling

Twice a week Oxford gives the staff of the BBC television programme, *Blue Peter*, the latest total for the Kampuchea appeal, launched on November 1 with an initial target of £100,000, which is all they thought viewers would be able to raise.

This week the figure from bring-and-buy sales throughout the country, and from donations that have continued to flood in, had reached £2,420,495. Miss Biddy Baxter, the editor of the programme, is confident that the final target of £3m will be achieved by Christmas eve.

Judging by the number of *Blue Peter* stickers distributed to people taking part in the sales, something like 11 million have contributed, either in cash or kind.

The money has bought 44 eight-ton lorries to distribute supplies; 210,000 hoes; 1,000 fishing nets; 3,500 tons of rice

seed; 1,500 tons of fertilizer; 32 tons of cotton yarn; 27,000 gallons of diesel fuel, and 1,000 tons of vaccine.

At the time of talking to Miss Baxter yesterday there had been arranged throughout the country 10,130 *Blue Peter* bring-and-buy sales. Reports of their success as a fund-raising medium and where else, ask Miss Baxter, do they have bring-and-buy sales except in Britain? "We have brought inquiries from Japan and West Germany wanting to know how to organize this," she said.

Miss Baxter is upset at suggestions that the appeal diverted funds from home charities such as Barnardo's and Help the Aged. It is "squidgy" to make a battlefield out of people most in need, she says.

Mr Simon Groom, one of the programme's presenters, was filming in the Scottish Highlands this week when a group of children from some remote school children.

Education visits and school journeys are to be cut by 50 per cent. Charges are to be introduced for instrumental music teaching to raise £27,000 a year. Reductions in swimming lessons are expected to save £13,000. Library fines will be lifted.

Announcing the joint decision of the education committee and the general purposes committee yesterday, Mr Anthony Gilham, said that the country had to achieve a 5 per cent reduction in its education budget next year.

Devon has decided to increase its school meal charges to 45p in April. From September, full-cost cafeteria snacks will be introduced into secondary schools while the cost of a meal in primary and special schools will go up to 50p. Free meals and milk will be provided for children in poor families. All other free milk is to be stopped.

The Devon education committee decided against introducing general charges for school transport.

Mr Justice Stephen Brown said: "In their wisdom, the magistrates had seen fit to return the child to your care, subject to a supervision order. Within three months the child was to be returned to your hands."

Mr Malcolm Wren, director of social services at Solihull, said yesterday: "A full inquiry is needed, for a change in

## Schools feel effects of cash cuts

By Our Education Correspondent

The cost of a school meal in Kent is to go up from 30p to 40p in April and to 50p in September. Free school meals will be provided only for children in families in receipt of supplementary benefit or family income supplement.

Free milk is to be withdrawn in all but medical cases and at special schools. School transport will be charged at a flat rate to cover the cost of the first two miles of transport for primary school children and the first three miles for secondary school children.

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## 'Statesman' jury case judgment is deferred

By Trevor Fishlock

The central question in the case in which the Attorney General seeks to have the *New Statesman* interview with a Thorpe trial juror declared a contempt of court is whether the article interfered with the administration of justice, it was agreed by both sides in the High Court yesterday.

Judgment will be given in the next term.

Mr Andrew Collins, for the Attorney General, said that disclosure of juryroom secrets did amount to an interference. Everyone would say it was undesirable. The disclosure in the *New Statesman* case was to prove a point—the Director of Public Prosecutions should have handled the Thorpe case differently—but the point could have been made without interviewing the juror.

It was true that interviews with jurors had been published over a number of years without the law on contempt being invoked. But, Mr Collins added, the concept of disclosure being an interference with the administration of justice was relatively new; and it was felt necessary to use it now.

Mr Geoffrey Robertson, for the *New Statesman*, said that he was not seeking to alter the law of the land but there was a need to have the anomalies cleared up.

Mr Guy Barnett (Greenwich), for the *Statesman*, said that the anomalies commission was investigating the illegal legislation that imposed a burden upon small businesses and voluntary services.

He said that the Thorpe case had been a matter of anomalies. No one could buy a bible in hardback on the Sabbath but people could buy pornography in softback.

Anyone could sell aircraft on Sunday but not meat.

This was a kind of petty anomaly we have to change, he said, otherwise we will be strangled by it.

Mr Robertson said he was seeking to alter the law of the land but there was a need to have the anomalies cleared up.

The *New Statesman* was a respected political and literary journal, he said, and published the interview as part of its analysis of an important political and legal issue. It had no axe to grind and no stake in the trial. The article did not diminish respect for the jury system; rather it enhanced it.

There was no denigration of judge or jury and the article was not an encouragement to jurors to break the law.

He added: "This is a criminal case against the *New Statesman* and intention must be proved beyond reasonable doubt. The Attorney General has not done so."

Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Park, said he would give judgment next term.

## Call for extra specialists to care for babies

By Our Education Correspondent

Edinburgh

More specialists in caring for new-born babies are urgently needed in the West of Scotland, a professor said yesterday. Babies under 5lb in weight, he added, had a better chance of survival in the east of Scotland than in the west.

Professor Malcolm MacNaughton, Muriel professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Glasgow University, said that Scotland had a bad reputation for stillbirths and other causes of death in the first week of life.

He told the British Medical Association Scottish Council in Edinburgh that many of the reasons for that were related to social and economic conditions. There were not enough specialists in the west; only one where there should be three. Glasgow was suffering particularly badly.

He said that more screening of mothers-to-be would help to combat the difficulties. Improvements in ante-natal care would help to detect small babies.

The BMA conference on caring for children also heard of the difficulties of racism in the Asian communities in Britain.

Dr Angus Ford, who works in Glasgow hospitals, said that between 1970-75 about 30 cases of Asian rickets were reported.

Specialists believe that the diet of these immigrant communities has been an important factor in causing the disease. Education of the parents was one of the most effective ways of prevention.

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## PARLIAMENT, Dec 14, 1979

## MPs consider banks could do more to help small firms

House of Commons

If small businesses were given sufficient encouragement—not fiscal encouragement—they would provide the jobs and prosperity for the future, Mr Andrew Speaker (North Devon), C, said when opening a debate on their problems.

He said that a greater degree of Government intervention was needed. The small firm complained of was financial disadvantage compared with the large firm. The only way to deal with this was to have greater access to the bank rather than the large firm and to provide a more advantageous source of finance than the small firm had at the present time.

It was felt that access to loan capital so that small firms could grow.

Mr Graham Bright (Luton, East C) said they should consider the possibility of introducing a statutory code of practice applied by the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise inspectors had to go through proper procedures, especially in VAT cases.

The key factors affecting small firms were the burden of taxation and availability of credit. Mr John Major (Huntingdonshire, C) said he hoped the Government would not bury the interim Wilson report on the financing of small firms. It recommended a limited subsidy scheme with a pool of risk capital to be used by small firms.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab) said the financial problems of small businesses came from the way the banks were organised. If there was one positive decision the Government should be willing to take, it was in the formation of a Government bank whose objective would be to support the voluntary sector of industry.

Mr David Mitchell (Basingstoke, C) said the new minimum lending rate had been a shock to businesses. The nation should be willing to make an offer to voluntary societies. The nation should be willing to make an offer to voluntary societies. The nation should be willing to make an offer to voluntary societies. The nation should be willing to make an offer to voluntary societies.

Lord Wigoder, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Park, said he would give judgment next term.

On the proposal for an anomalies commission, Parliament itself was a standing commission for anomalies. Ministers should always consider backbench representations.

Under another relief announced this week, from December 31 companies which were neither holding companies or subsidiaries with a turnover of £100,000 and did not have to disclose in the way they had done before, so those businesses would be able to feel the same privacy their affairs as the ordinary citizen enjoyed.

His department had commissioned Coopers and Lybrand to investigate the small firm situation in terms of premises, what the supply and demand was, how the Government could encourage workers to take on workers and what the private sector could do to see what extra provision the Government needed to make.

The debate was adjourned.

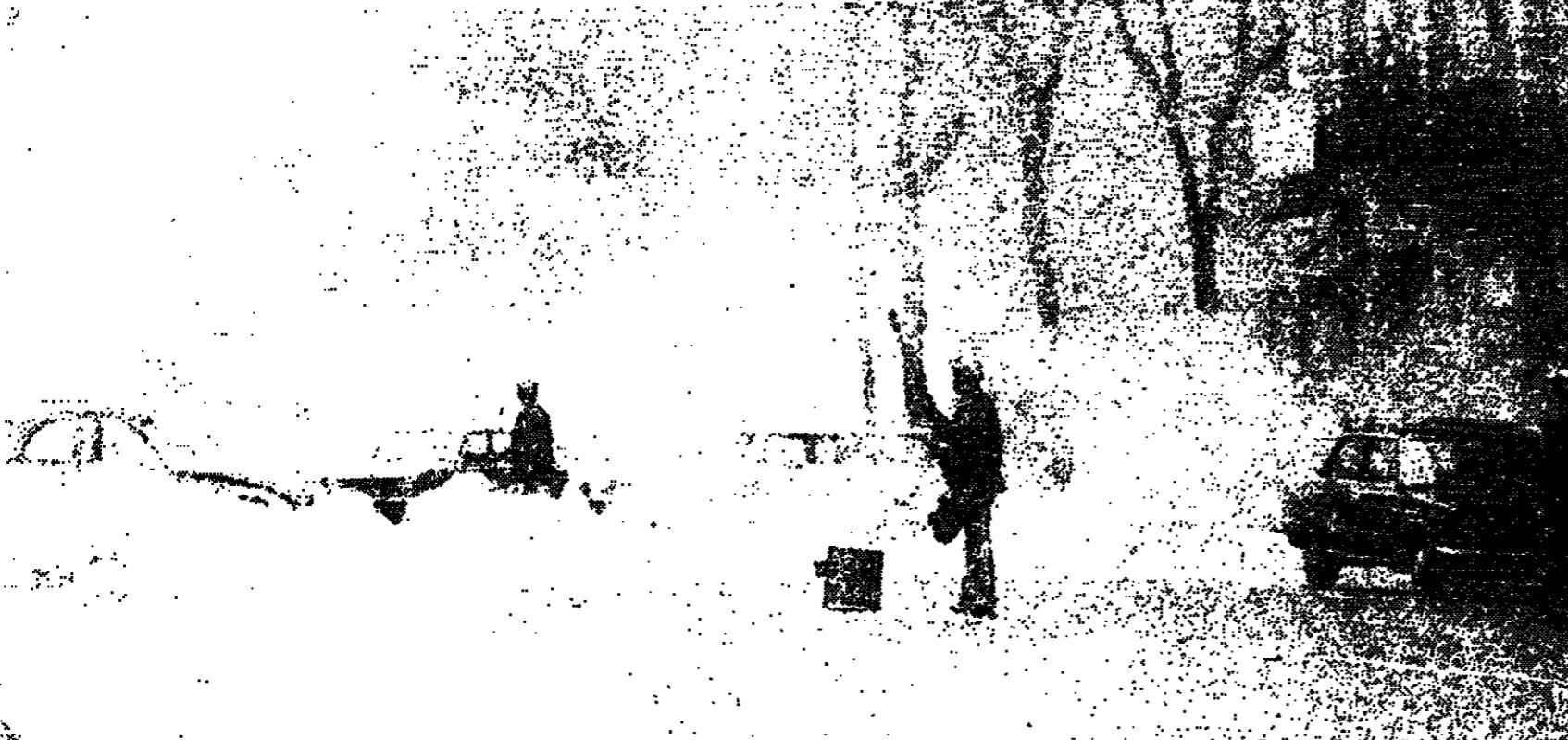
## Reduction sought in use of aerosol propellant

European Parliament

Strasbourg: MPs voted in favour of a reduction in the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) propellant used in aerosol cans. They passed a resolution calling for a 50 per cent cut by the end of next year over the levels used in 1976.

They rejected a suggestion from the Parliament's Environment and Consumer Protection Committee that CFCs damage the ozone layer it should be banned.

## WEST EUROPE



Smoke bomb clouds over a Madrid street after two young men were shot dead by police in Thursday's riot.

## Street riot deaths bring out Madrid crowds in protest

From Harry Debelius  
Madrid, Dec 14

The fatal shooting of two rioters by the police in Madrid and the expectation of violent reactions from the far left, did not stop Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, from leaving Madrid today on a scheduled one-day visit to Brussels for meetings with Mr Roy Jenkins, the President of the European Commission.

The deaths occurred last night when, at the end of a peaceful authorized demonstration by trade unions, gangs of young men barricaded streets and attacked the police with stones and bottles, according to witnesses. One group surrounded a vehicle with five policemen on board, and the policemen — a sergeant and

four patrolmen from the Communist-led Workers' Commissions, Spain's biggest union, and others' workers' organizations.

They marched in protest against a "workers' statute", a Bill regulating labour relations which was debated yesterday, and again today, in a plenary session of Parliament.

The dead men had no connection with the demonstration, but were believed to be among about 500 people protesting against proposed legislation on university affairs who harassed the police lining the route of the authorization march.

There had been skirmishes between students and the police. An assortment of extreme left-wing parties, none of them big enough to be represented in Parliament, joined the

student groups in calling for further demonstrations to protest against the shootings.

Señor Suárez left Madrid's Barajas international airport about 8pm for Brussels in connection with Spain's application for EEC membership. He was to return tomorrow night. King Juan Carlos was also absent, on a visit to Equatorial Guinea.

The Basque country prepared today for the homecoming of Senior Laizaola, the 83-year-old leader, Señor Jesus Marin Laizaola, the president of the Basque "government in exile" who is expected to hand over his authority to the Basque General Council over the weekend.

Senior Laizaola's formal return, to be celebrated first in the Bilbao football stadium

tomorrow after his arrival on board a special flight from Paris, will be the final step in completing the autonomy process under which the Basque country recently won regional self-government.

Senior Laizaola, who was legally elected in 1936, and never renounced his authority, will step down at last on Sunday in a simple ceremony in Guernica, the traditional Basque capital which during the Spanish civil war was razed to the ground by the Luftwaffe.

The successor whom the Lendakari will receive is Señor Carlos Garrido, the President of the Basque General Council. He will remain in office until early next year, or at least when Basque voters will elect their regional government.

## British deterrent will be left out of Salt 3

From Henry Stanhope  
Defence Correspondent  
Brussels, Dec 14

Nato which earlier this week approved a new arms control initiative to the Soviet Union, will not put any pressure on Britain to offer its own Polaris deterrent for negotiation.

Despite the recent attempt by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, to resurrect the claim that British and French forces should be included in the strategic arithmetic, the possibility was not even discussed during the five days of meetings here at Nato headquarters.

Dr Joseph Luns, Nato's secretary-general, made clear at a final press conference here today that the Strategic Arms limitation talks (Salt 3), at which the new Nato proposals are to be presented, will remain a Soviet-American affair in which only the nuclear weapons of the super powers will be involved.

Meanwhile, the United States will contact the Russians as soon as possible to relay the Alliance's proposals, which accompanied the plan to station 572 new nuclear weapons in West Europe. The decision to deploy these missiles was also approved on Wednesday.

But the first concrete result of this week's Nato meetings will come on Monday, when the West will table a set of new proposals at the Vienna talks on mutual balanced force reductions (MBFR).

Sources confirmed today that the main feature of the plan is

a phase one withdrawal of 30,000 Soviet and 13,000 American troops.

So much talk of arms control, coupled with the broad agreement shown by the Alliance on Wednesday, has made it a good week for Nato's image.

Even the Soviet response to the Nato decision to station new nuclear weapons in West Europe, has been less severe than expected here. The general feeling is that they were taken by surprise by the Alliance's display of political will, as was Nato itself.

The final communiqué, issued after the meeting of foreign ministers, welcomed the agreement which has so far been reached on Rhodesia. The ministers, it said, looked forward to the day when an independent Republic of Zimbabwe would take its place as a full member of the international community.

But the communiqué was more concerned with the achievements of Brussels than London. It said that ministers were determined that the 1980s should see a fundamental change for the better in the situation between East and West. The programme of action envisaged by Nato offers the best opportunity for creating more constructive relations.

The communiqué went on to say that the ministers "considered that this programme represents a major opportunity for the countries of the Warsaw Pact to translate into action the interest they have signalled in improving the situation in Europe.

It was hostile to peace and peaceful coexistence, and prejudicial to the economic development of nations and the improvement of the standard of living of the people.

The stationing of such an arsenal on the frontiers of France constitutes a grave threat to the French people and nation," the appeal goes on.

It is therefore "up to the workers and the patriots of our country to take rapidly the initiative of the struggle", and to say no to the deployment of American missiles in Europe.

## Theologian ends explanations

Rome, Dec 14.—Professor Edward Schillebeeckx, the Belgian theologian called to the Vatican to clarify his views on the divinity of Christ, today completed his explanations.

The Vatican has been at pains to say the talks did not constitute a heresy trial. —Reuter.

## Ban on filming Nazi trial

Cologne, Dec 14.—BBC television crew was today banned from filming a Nazi war crimes trial in which three former SS officers stand accused of deporting thousands of French Jews to their deaths.

The trial, which is to be shown on March 1, when the Holocaust film is to be repeated, is produced by Bill Trehearne.

## Gains for moderate French unions

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Dec 14

The election of 14,026 members of France's industrial tribunals produced an unexpectedly large turn-out of voters. It also saw notable progress made by the moderate trade union organizations, Force Ouvrière and the Confédération Française des Travailleurs Chrétiens (CFTC), in relation to the two more politically committed union organizations, the Communist-led Confédération Générale du Travail (CGT) and the leftist Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail (CFDT).

Nearly 7,500,000 registered workers or 63 per cent of those registered and 48 per cent of the 900,000 registered employers took part in these elections for the *conseils des prud'hommes* set up by law last January. An institution established by Napoleon in 1806, they have been reformed from time to time since but were in urgent need of a complete overhaul. The number of *prud'hommes* has been more than doubled from the former total of 6,500. The institution has been extended to all areas of the country and for the first time members of the tribunals were being elected on the basis of uniform voting system.

The big national labour organizations swept the board on Wednesday, gathering in more than 95 per cent of the polls—crushing defeat for the "independent" unions, regarded by the *Republique* as annexes of the

employers. They have been fighting for years for recognition as national organizations, but only received a meagre 2.8 per cent of the workers' votes.

These elections were seen by all the unions as a test of their potential support, not so much in the ranks of organized labour, which in France only accounts for one wage-earner in four, but of the working population as a whole. The results must be an encouragement for the unions, said the president of the CFTC, "there is no silent majority" in the world of labour among some employers maintained.

The leaders of the four leading trade union organizations expressed satisfaction with the results. M Georges Séguin, the CGT, had been confirmed in first place with 42.9 per cent of the poll, but this cannot conceal the fact that it hoped to get 50 per cent. It has lost ground in relation to the only comparable poll—that for the workers' representatives to the social security councils in 1962, when it scored 23.1 per cent—and achieved nothing like the score of more than 59 per cent it won in the immediate postwar years.

The CFDT, led by M Edmond Maitre, remains on paper the second largest labour organization with 31.1 per cent.

M André Bergeron, leader of Force Ouvrière, claimed with some justice that his union was in fact the second largest, if one added to its score of 17.4 per cent the strong support it enjoys among Government officials and public sector workers.

The result was not a surprise for us—it was for those who had buried us prematurely.

If we had not been victims of a conspiracy of silence, we would have done better," said M Jean Barnard, its Secretary General.

Among the *cadres* or workers in management grades, who constitute a separate electoral college for the elections, the Confédération Générale des Cadres (CGC) upheld its claim to be their leading union with 23.1 per cent.

The CFTC, the Christian

rump resulting from a breakaway from the CFDT, had not expected to poll more than 5 per cent, but obtained 6.9 per cent.

The result was not a surprise for us—it was for those who did not take part in the vote.

"We did not think we would achieve such a score—the best polls gave us 10 to 12 per cent," he said. Force Ouvrière owed all the unions as a test of their potential support, not so much in the ranks of organized labour, which in France only accounts for one wage-earner in four, but of the working population as a whole. The results must be an encouragement for the unions, said the president of the CFTC, "there is no silent majority" in the world of labour among some employers maintained.

This poll is a broad approximation to the working class of the policy we have led for years, of independence from parties and the state, and of national wage agreements," M Bergeron added.

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## Europe's highest cable-car railway opens

From Our Correspondent  
Geneva, Dec 14

Europe's highest cable-car railway opens this weekend. It runs from Trockenreiter (9,840ft), above Zermatt, to the 12,530ft point just below the peak of the Little Matterhorn.

At the top station, a 560ft tunnel provides access to the Tuna Grigia skiing area below the Matterhorn and a lift connects the station with an observation platform at 12,736ft.

Despite strong environmental opposition, construction began in 1973. Materials for the upper station were transported by helicopter. Four flights were needed for every square yard of reinforced concrete which was prepared down at Trockenreiter Stieg with hot water to which anti-freeze had been added.

Until now Europe's highest cable-railway station has been the Aiguille du Midi (12,464ft) in the Mont Blanc massif.

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arsenal on the frontiers of France constitutes a grave threat to the French people and nation," the appeal goes on.

It is therefore "up to the workers and the patriots of our country to take rapidly the initiative of the struggle", and to say no to the deployment of American missiles in Europe.

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all the unions as a test of their potential support, not so much in the ranks of organized labour, which in France only accounts for one wage-earner in four, but of the working population as a whole. The results must be an encouragement for the unions, said the president of the CFTC, "there is no silent majority" in the world of labour among some employers maintained.

This poll is a broad approximation to the working class of the policy we have led for years, of independence from parties and the state, and of national wage agreements," M Bergeron added.

The CFTC, the Christian

rump resulting from a breakaway from the CFDT, had not

expected to poll more than 5 per cent, but obtained 6.9 per cent.

The result was not a surprise for us—it was for those who did not take part in the vote.

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## OVERSEAS

## Iran likely to dominate Mrs Thatcher's talks with President Carter

From David Cross  
Washington, Dec 14  
Mrs Thatcher is expected to pledge Britain's strong support for United States efforts to secure the release of 53 hostages held in the American Embassy in Tehran, when she meets President Carter here next week.

Mrs Thatcher arrives in Washington on Sunday night for her first official visit to the United States since she took office earlier this year. On Monday she will meet President Carter and leading Administration officials, including Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, and Mr Harold Brown, the Defence Secretary.

She will travel to New York on Tuesday for talks with United Nations officials, including Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General, and to deliver a speech to the Foreign Policy Association.

The Prime Minister, who will be accompanied by Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, will also visit Exxon research and development plant in Linden, New Jersey, before returning on Tuesday night.

The American Administration is preoccupied with the Iranian crisis and likely to set the tone for the talks between Mr Carter and Mrs Thatcher at the White House. British officials here emphasize that the United Kingdom is ready to do everything possible to help.

They point out that Mrs Thatcher was one of the first Western leaders to condemn the

seizure of the embassy in Tehran and that the British have taken practical steps to demonstrate their support for American policy. They cite the British ban on the supply of military equipment and spare parts to Iran, as well as the decision by British Petroleum and Shell not to conclude new agreements for the purchase of Iranian oil beyond the end of this year.

The two movements are the Zulu-dominated Inkatha organization, headed by Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, the Chief Minister of the KwaZulu "homeland", and the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM), a collection of groups headed by the Soweto Committee of 10 and the Azania People's Organization which support Black Consciousness ideals.

Though they are both striving for black liberation, their strategies for achieving this are so radically different there are fears of violence developing between their respective supporters.

In numerical strength Chief Buthelezi easily has the upper hand. Inkatha now has a paid membership of about 300,000, while it is believed the largest political organization in South Africa. Though it draws most of its support from the country's five million Zulus, Inkatha has opened its doors to non-Zulus. It is also allied to the main Coloured and Indian political parties.

Other subjects likely to be broached include this week's decision by Nato in Brussels to go ahead with the production and deployment of new nuclear missiles in West Europe, the deteriorating world economy, and energy problems.

From Our Own Correspondent Johannesburg

An increasingly intensive and at times acrimonious contest is taking place between two of South Africa's biggest black political movements to win the hearts and minds—and eventually the votes—of the country's 20 million black a tenth that size.

The Inkatha organization also has a much-publicized if ambiguous relationship with the banned African National Congress (ANC), the most important externally-based liberation movement. Though they are politically far apart—Inkatha is conservative and favours non-violence, while the ANC is left-wing and committed to armed struggle—both Chief Buthelezi and Mr Oliver Tambo, the ANC's London-based leader, realize the importance of remaining on good terms.

Chief Buthelezi hopes his links with the ANC will earn him the support of militants who would otherwise scorn Inkatha's passive approach and who criticize his acceptance of working within the framework of the Pretoria Government's "Bantustan" policy.

The ANC recognizes the grassroots support which Chief Buthelezi enjoys among his people and which could one day be mobilized in favour of the ANC.

Last month Chief Buthelezi and an Inkatha delegation held three days of talks with the ANC leadership in London, an event from which Chief Buthelezi has subsequently been trying to extract maximum political mileage.

The ANC has described the meetings simply as a dialogue. The ANC is well-organized. When Chief Buthelezi addresses a rally in

Soweto, as he did last month, his party workers pack the stadium with 20,000 supporters. No other black leader in the country could muster a crowd a tenth that size.

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## Key job for hardliners in Seoul Cabinet

Seoul, Dec 14.—President Choi Kyu Hah of South Korea announced his new Cabinet today with top military figures in senior positions, clearly indicating that the hardline generals have become the power brokers in South Korea.

The hardliners, who arrested nearly a dozen moderate generals on Wednesday night, had reportedly wanted their people in the important Home, Justice and Defence ministries, and that is what they received.

General Choo Young Bok, until recently Air Force Chief of Staff, was named Minister of Defence. He replaces Mr Ro Jae Hyun, who had been expected to stay on before the military shake-up, but was dropped because he was too closely associated with General Chung Seung Hwa, the former Martial Law Administrator and leader of the moderate faction, sources said.

General Kim Chong Kwan, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, takes over the Home Ministry which controls the national police and provincial governments.

Mr Park Sang Gi, a former government prosecutor who is in the Central Election Committee and was a supporter of the assassinated President Park Cheung Hee, was appointed Minister of Justice.

Mr Sun Ki Won, the presidential spokesman, announced his 18-member Cabinet headed by Mr Shin Hyon Hwang, who received his formal appointment as Prime Minister earlier this month. From President Choi, the post of minister without portfolio, usually held by leading figures from the late President Park's ruling Democratic Republican Party, were left vacant.

Since Wednesday night's military power struggle, President Choi has made no public appearances and his spokesman said he did not plan to issue any statements. Mr Choi apparently had no advance knowledge of the shakeup and seems to have taken a back seat to the hardliners.

Four members of Mr Park's old Cabinet, which submitted its resignations after the Mr Choi was elected president on December 6 by the electoral college, are included in the new Cabinet. Among them is Mr Park Tong Jin, the foreign minister, reflecting the Government's desire to maintain continuity in foreign policy.

The economic ministries all went to technocrats. Mr Kim Yon Ki kept his portfolio of finance. The post of Deputy Finance Minister and Minister of Economic Planning has gone to Mr Lee Han Bin, an economist trained in the United States at Harvard.

The Cabinet includes Mr Choi's son, President Syngman Lee's Government in 1960. He is Dr Kim Ok Gill, the president of Ewha Women's University until earlier this year, who becomes Minister of Education. She is considered independent but her other has been associated with dissident causes—AP.

## Canton to get precedence in world trading

Hongkong, Dec 14  
Canton will acquire special status on January 1 authorizing local party and trade officials to operate without necessarily seeking approval from the Government.

This will give Canton precedence over Peking and Shanghai in international trading, according to Mr David Buxbaum, an American specialist on Chinese affairs, who has just returned from a visit to China. The authority for Canton signifies Peking's recognition of an influence of Hongkong in contact with the West.

## 'Cocktail party set' trades slurs with 'collaborators'

## Two movements vie for support of South Africa's black millions

From Our Own Correspondent Johannesburg

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Chief Buthelezi's links with the ANC have caused dismay within the Black Consciousness Movement because they are seen as giving the Zulu leader a political legitimacy he does not deserve.

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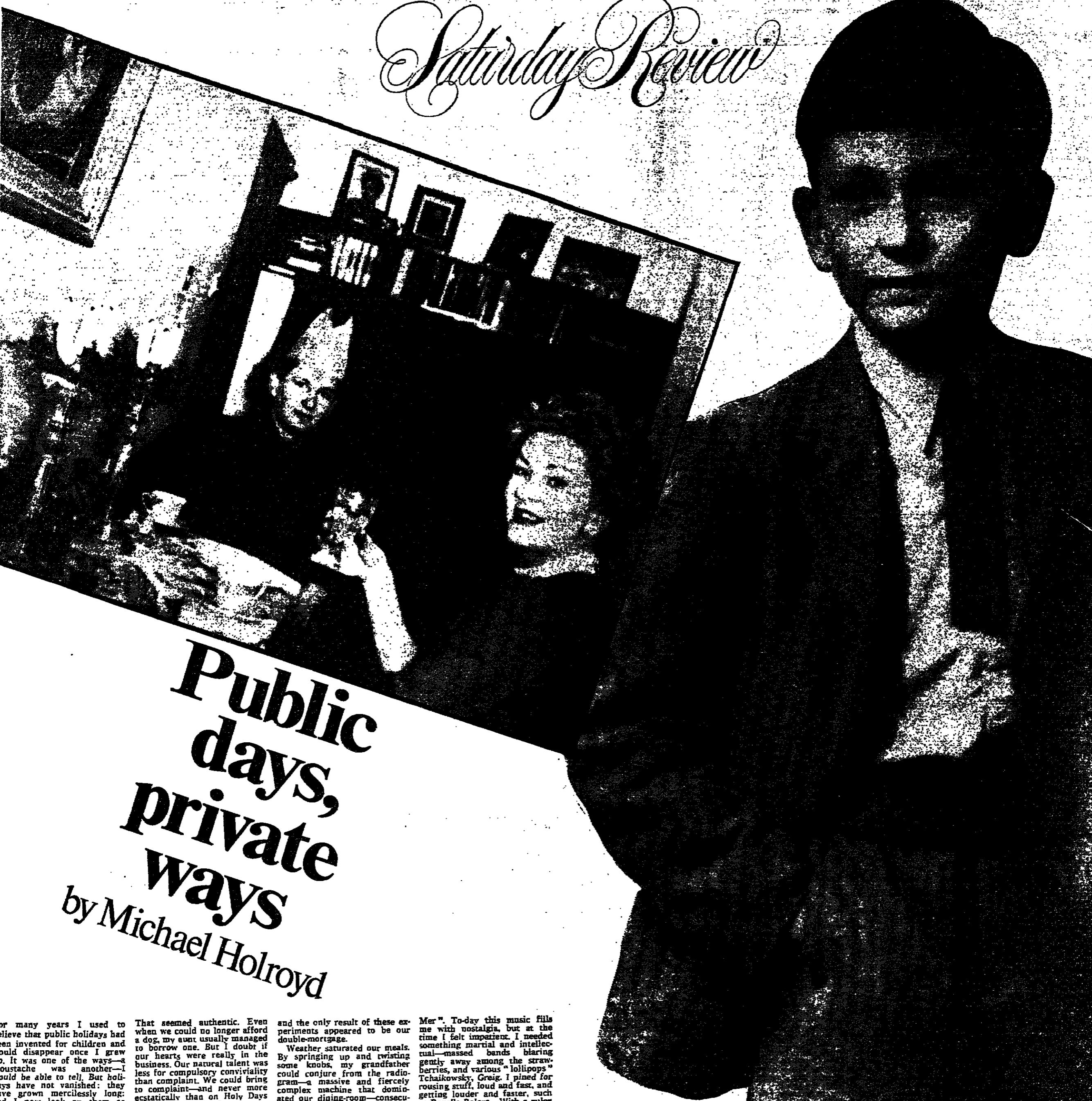
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# Public days, private ways

by Michael Holroyd

For many years I used to believe that public holidays had been invented for children and would disappear once I grew up. It was one of the ways—moustache was another—I would be able to tell. But holidays had not vanished: they have grown more civilized, longer, and now look on them as occasions when, pending our second childhood, we try to plunge back to early child days. Blood is thicker than water but families are thicker than thieves, so our attitude depends on the sort of childhood we enjoyed or endured. A time for suicide or for celebration: the world is divided into those who take their holidays with or from their relatives.

Good Friday, Whitson, the August Bank Holiday—we saw them all as opportunities for disaster. We had the recipe for disaster as other people had it for brandy butter. In this matter we were wonderfully self-sufficient. We could, for example, rely on the weather as being unpredictable. My grandfather seemed untroubled by this, being partly deaf. My father was less susceptible still and could be propelled to his feet, standing alertly to attention and a few bars of Gilbert and Sullivan, if someone—usually myself, his son—said it might be "God Save the King". Of course he had heard of music, my father, but he hadn't heard anything very good. It was dangerous stuff, so they said, and he could well imagine it being "brandy of the damned". A lot of the trouble in the world—the sort of thing we heard at lunch—could have been avoided by a little intelligent silence: that was his opinion, and who can say that it was wrong? He valued silence in others. So did we all.

Next to medicine, my grandfather's chief hobby when I knew him was weather. He knew the names of clouds and could predict things, such as their effect on General Elections, with vigorous Conservative optimism. In his role as unfrocked scientist, he liked to conduct expensive experiments. In the morning-room it was exclusively Dr Bronowski's coke, in the hall Maurice Sach's tree trunks; the kitchen was served in a blue sort of way by unnatural gas, the dining-room was red with electricity. There was also a huge Aga furnace, of course, worn smooth with dusting, and very faint: "Miss Otis Regrets", "Bye Bye Blackbird", and foreign noises such as Charles Trenet singing "Le

and the only result of these experiments appeared to be our double-mortgage.

Weather saturated our meals. By springing up and twisting some knobs, my grandfather could conjure from the radio-gram—a massive and fiercely complex machine that dominated our dining-room—consecutive reports. We ate to the accompaniment of droughts and blizzards while my grandfather, at the head of the table, smiled and nodded expertly. With the middle of lunch or dinner came the news of volcanic eruptions, mounting sears, volcanic eruptions, bloody murders, strikes floated round the room as we sat quietly eating.

But never music. My family was intensely unmusical and never interfered with my own musical tastes—indeed, had not heard of them. Occasionally my grandmother would moan an Irish dirge— "Father, dear father" was a favourite of hers. My grandfather seemed untroubled by this, being partly deaf.

Everyone felt greatly exercised during these holidays over the problem of "the boy".

What was to be done with him? I had no suggestions of my own. One Easter I was taken

to my first pantomime and waited angrily for the pandas to appear, having understood it to be a *panda-mime*. It was characteristic of holidays to play such tricks. At Christmas, late at night, I secretly hung up a stocking at the end of my bed, having heard at school that people did this. Nothing happened. Typical, I felt.

My father, who inherited my grandfather's optimism, was cheerfully determined that everything should go with a bang: and sometimes it did. His arrival was welcomed with much anguish by my grandparents, partly because he would take for granted all manner of exotic things: hot water for a bath; ashtrays for his pipe and so on. Worse still, he would arrive bristling with dangerous presents for my pram. I was hardly out of my pram, it seemed, when he turned up with a golf club. He was too tolerant to insist that I follow in his footsteps. He merely demanded that I perform extremely well those things he seldom if ever bothered to do himself. There was no limit, in this respect, to his generosity. After a few flourishes to show how it was done, he handed the golf club to my aunt with instructions for her to finish off my nation,

and returned to Sweden (like coal to Newcastle) and accosted my Swedish mother on the boat. They got along fine on water, but eventually struck land and then split up. Both of them liked England, and in no time had French and Hungarian step-parents—with an occasional step-brother or (virgin) step-sister added to the retinue. To ingratiate themselves, they would ask me various thick and complicated questions about cricket, and I soon became politely expert. But it was difficult at first getting their names right, and I noticed that almost everyone looked when I got them wrong. Each holiday I would be introduced to someone fresh and yanked off. I knew not where. I should have enjoyed it far more than I did, but had no grasp of geography and little sense of its prestige. I remember how surprised I was by the wretchedness of Vienna until discovering myself to be in Venice. That vain English disease of shyness concealed many things from me, and I sneaked to go about in a protective dream, not knowing if it was Christmas or Easter, Cologne or Acapulco.

My mother followed the sun

and I trailed after her. As soon as the sun came up, she lay down, hour after hour, turning very slowly and darkening like rognons on a spit. I hung about waiting—waiting for life to career into me. I had little gift for sunbathing—or for the other, feasts my mother performed so well: languages, dancing, and so on. I enjoyed them, and still do, with feverish longing, but as a spectator. My spirit danced and was eloquent

while I sat quietly by. All this sitting around convinced people that I was, if not precocious, terribly mature. My emotional paralysis made me appear wise, uncle. I was far older than my mother and to her extreme delight we were sometimes taken for brother and sister. In many respects I was in loco parentis. If she wished to elope, fly off from one country to the next, she made me her travel agent. But she never acted, however ruinously, without first asking my advice. This advice, much revered for the sympathetic timbre of my voice, was powerfully inconclusive and enabled anyone who accepted it to do exactly what he wanted. It gave an air of second-hand authority to the most absurd decisions, partly because, never taking any action myself, I had unassisted an extraordinary reputation for wisdom. So I adven-

tured, vicariously, like some valiant packing and unpacking other people's luggage, before returning from these strange holidays to the orthodoxy of school. In time, these adventures grew wilder: smuggling my mother out of a top-security German hospital; searching for lost earnings in Austria; that sort of thing.

I protest against holidays

I protest too much. I loath-ugly word "holidaymaker". I object to "hanging ar—making" a holiday. People I have never met tell me so. I like to bank holidays, like a romantic so that when the real hol-to-be finally comes, my English puritanism (for English sh) has by now hardened into will not hold me back. All be singing and smiling, lau-and presents. And I shall dancing, rather amazingly last.

Michael Holroyd

## Berlioz fully revealed

*La damnation de Faust*: Fischer-Dieskau/Münch-Orchestr de Paris/Barenboim: DG 2709 087, £15.17.  
 Gurrelieder: Gurrelieder: McCracken, Boston Opera, Philips 6769 036, £5.25, 7699 124, £10.45.  
*Sinfonia*: Symphony No. 3, Konzertstück for four horns: PO/Tennstedt, HMV 3724, £5.40, TC-ASD 55.40.  
*Sinfonia*: Symphony No. 8: SO/Gulini, DG 2531, £5.06, 3301 046, £5.27.  
*Sinfonia*: Symphony No. 4, armonia/Ashkenazy, Decca 5919, £5.25, £5.25, KSX 525.  
*Sinfonia*: Symphony No. 6: Böhm, DG 2511, £5.05, 3301 212, £5.27.  
*Sinfonia*: Symphony No. 3: State SO/Svetlanov, Laya 33 C 01015-16 (4 discs).  
*Sinfonia*: Symphony No. 4, Overture LPO/Wieher, ASXL 6908, £5.25.  
*Sinfonia*: Symphony No. 4: Hartink, Decca SXL 6927, £5.25, KSX 6927, £5.25.  
*Sinfonia*: Symphony: Piatigorsky/Rattle, Decca Headline D 21, £5.25.

I imagine a more seasonable choice of choral work, but editions like Barenboim's version of *La damnation* must have to be welcomed over they appear. It is not

Plácido Domingo is masterly too much by music and sometimes led tight corners, while the nos of the chorus introduce the touching but not appropriate strains of a school concert. What this one has, however, is an simply clever Mephistophelian *Gurrelieder*: Fischer-Dieskau, Philips (Yvonne Minton) gives him a voice of incalculable and delicious singing, and an intelligent, seductive orchestral performance.

One may sometimes the flash and the fire, but Böhm's mature approach deeply revealing, bringing the underlying strange and menacing. The secular oratorio, *Gurrelieder*, is well managed by Boston under Seiji Ozawa. The

work, like Mahler's eighth symphony, is one that really needs the festival atmosphere and engulfing sound of a live performance, and, though this recording was made at a concert, it fails to match up to the real thing. Nor does it match other recorded accounts. There is some splendid singing from Janies McCracken and Jessie Norman as the lovers, and from Tadiana Troyanos as the Wood dove, but a good deal of the orchestral detail is ineffectively brought out.

All the rest are symphonies. Last month I suggested that Barenboim's Schumann set had no peer, but now here comes Klaus Tennstedt with a beautiful Rhenish from Berlin, and this more brassy symphony is aptly coupled with the Konzertstück for four horns and orchestra. Tennstedt begins his work with an ambitious and firm-sounding movement to the symphony, which will be balanced by an equally stirring finale. In between, however, his withdrawal is not entirely successful. The cathedral movement, for instance, obviously aims at austere solemnity, but instead seems flat, and the performance seems adequate, except when the Russian brass sliver like a momentous jelly.

One turns with relief to the brilliance and clean attack of the London Philharmonic in new recordings of the fourth symphonies of Prokofiev and Shostakovich, both from integral sets in progress. Prokofiev's fourth, here given in the 1947 reworking which was effective, is surely too fast. Nevertheless, this is a very new composition, in one of his less exceptional works, but the movement is almost worth having for the commanding camp Russian overture. Shostakovich's fourth is another matter. As Hartink makes very clear, his rhetoric is not that of the public celebration or the private self-indulgence: the work is, rather, one of the most overpowering negative statements in music.

Quite by contrast, Peter Maxwell Davies' *Sinfonia* (which before long we shall have to rename "first symphony") uses negative and disruptive materials to create a world of commanding positive achievement. It has taken me some while to recognize the necessity of its sometimes disturbing detail, and I doubt that many people will like the work at first. The excellent new recording, however, gives one the opportunity to stretch one's mind to encompass a rare masterpiece from this dwindling decade.

Paul Griffiths

## Handel's Jephtha in style

*Jephtha*, Soloists/Chorus of St. John's Church, Chelmsford/Martinez: D181D4, £19.95 (4 discs), £14.43.

*Jephtha*, Soloists/Schubert-Chorus, Mozart/Chorus/Concerto Musique/Hausmeyer: Tel-AV 6649, £21.75.

*Alexander's Feast*, King's College Choral Society: BMV SLS 5168, £12 (2 discs), TC-SLS.

*The Art of Fugue*, Harmonia Mundi 99793-4, £9.98 (2 discs).

*Organ Music*, Vol. 4, Hurford: Argo D177D3, (3 discs), TC K177K32.

*Sacred choral works*, ad 4: Soloists: John Chon ECO/Negrini: 6769 052, £10.45 (2 discs).

*The last and certainly the noblest of Handel's odes, has never done well* (sic). There have been "Deeper and deeper" and "Wet her, angels" (sic) bringing him the us and out again, but a complete version I heard now was a Vanguard distinguished by Alexander Young's title role and Reri Crist's daughte, indifferently.

There are two new versions from England, and are making available a from Telefunken. The most interesting is by Nikolai Harnoncourt, directing the English by the Academy of the Fields under Marinier. I do not, it is only traditionalists ill find the conventional more enjoy.

Marinier shows his usual. The orchestral playing faultfully secure and the rhythms are the phrasing is neat and Tempos tend to be on the side, at least in the part of the oratorio: I myself, wondering, about through, when there to be some hint of aic elements that later dominate the work, it is a lighter-toned than one might ideal world, look for.

*Idomeneo*, Mathis/Schreier/Ochman, Leipzig Chorus, Dresden State Chor: DG 2740-195, (4 discs).

*La clemenza di Tito*, Mathis/Berganza, Adam/Leipzig Radio Dresden State Orch: DG 2709 092, £15.17 (3 discs), 3371 049, £15.81.

*Il re pastore*, Mathis/Ghazarian, Krenn/Salzburg Mozarteum: DG 2740 182, (3 discs).

Year of his eighty-fifth, Kari Böhm's famed for enjoying plenty of work has been much in ce. He has, for example, a recorded cycle of even most celebrated operas, and Deutscheophon have published lot in a huge box, DG 2740 222, £53.09—given here and above.

Harnoncourt has also recorded *Alexander's Feast* this year, but although his performance again has original instruments and an excellent solo team (Felicity Palmer, Anthony Rolfe Johnson, Stephen Roberts), I would recommend the work of Philip Ledger, a much more direct reading, avoiding the fussiness and exaggerated nuance that disturb the line of Harnoncourt's. There is some charming soprano singing from Helen Donath, vigorous declamation from Robert Tear, and a fine account of the noble basic aria "Revenge. Timothus' cries" from Thomas Allen; and Mr Ledger's all-male choir have a stronger claim to authenticity than Harnoncourt's mixed one. There is fine, lively, unaffected playing from the ECO, and excellent, spacious sound.

My Bach batch is wholly of keyboard music. From Harmonia Mundi comes *The Art of Fugue* played by Gustav Leonhardt on the harpsichord. At first this may seem excessively austere, but soon one becomes aware of Leonhardt's masterly control of the span of each movement, and later he brings a sense of richness even to some of the quiet moments. There are some points of ralissimo with, but what emerges is a searching performance, and indeed a tour de force, technical and intellectual. Peter Hurford has now reached the fourth volume of the complete organ works, made on organs all round the world. I enjoy his imaginative, discriminating registration in the smaller pieces, and the contemplative character of his playing; but the Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor, which ends this set, shows, too, his architectural control and his command of a more brilliant, public manner.

Finally, I would draw attention to the last issue in Philip's complete choral works of Vivaldi. This box is, as it were, a mixed bag, containing both Vivaldi's most popular choral work, the *Gloria* (with a less familiar prefatory piece), and a strange mass setting with only a dubious claim for inclusion. Good solo singing, an excellent contribution from the John Alldis Choir, tidy playing from the ECO under Vittorio Negrini's discreet and capable direction.

Stanley Sadie

apply until January 2, 1980, after which DG records will cost more).

Five of them have already been welcomed on this page: the other two, *Idomeneo* and *La clemenza di Tito*, are recent acquisitions to the capon of Mozart operas. Böhm has been in charge of both at the Salzburg Festival in recent years and, having pondered about text and casting, has recorded both in versions which reached the United Kingdom market this year. For the records he returned to his old hall in Dresden and the orchestra, formerly called the Sachsen Staatskapelle, with which he made some famous pre-war '78s (do you remember the Bruckner 4, and the Strauss *Don Juan*?). The *Idomeneo* came first, using Peter Schreier as a tenor *Idomeneo*, therefore adopting the musical text as revised by Mozart (with two new pieces).

Stanley Sadie

Böhm takes broad view of Mozart

for a later concert performance by aristocratic amateurs in Vienna. His sterling voice and interpretative art are handsomely contrasted with the darker, more mature-sounding *Idomeneo* of Wieslaw Ochman, a fine tragedy hero. Edith Mathis is the enchanting, touching *Ida*, Julia Varady the richly venomous *Elektra*, less successful at the gentler aspects of the role. The orchestral playing is a constant joy, but should not have been allowed to denote the singers to audible second place. There are, as usual with Böhm, too many cuts for the good of a recorded performance (a different understanding from a staged production in the theatre, where other considerations apply). *Il re pastore*, com-

## Records of the month



Chaliapin as Quichotte at Monte Carlo, with Geesee as Sancho Panca

## Massenet rich and ripe

*Don Quichotte*, Chiauropi/Bacquier/Suisse Romande/Kord, Decca D156D3 (3 discs), K156K32, £15.75.  
*La bohème*, Ricciarelli/Carreras/Covent Garden Orch/Davis, Philips 6769 031 (2 discs), 7699 116, £10.45.  
*Manon*, Gangelovic and Korusek, used to have a virtual monopoly of Massenet's opera (they appear on the heavily cut Everest recording), taking it around Europe as the Morecambe and Wise of the lyric stage. The Chiauropi/Bacquier combination is infinitely more rewarding, particularly when supported by Decca's Dulcinea, Regine Crespin at her most turbulent and stylish form, and like Massenet himself, more than half in love with Quixote. Maximine Coxon conducts the Suisse Romande with the right mixture of sadness and ebullience—one of the most encouraging trends in recorded opera this year has been the readiness of some companies to take chances on conductors who are not the obvious choice at first sight.

Five years have passed since the last *Bohème* on record, possibly a tribute to the strength of the existing competition. Colin Davis's new version on Philips is likely to challenge Beecham (EMI), Karajan (Decca) and Solzi (RCA) without actually toppling any of them. Davis and the Covent Garden Orchestra are out to brush away the cobwebs from the score, and the name of the tenor, when he stretches and moulds the vocal line, nor indeed was the composer himself, one of Tauber's warmest admirers. The pick of the month's reissues are an operatic double album of Elisabeth Schwarzkopf backed by assorted chamber and solo pieces, and a collection of assorted quality. The measure of a side is in over-generous, but the same structure could never be applied to the soprano herself, and the collection contains two of her finest performances on record: *Asapha* arias from *Freischütz*. Also on EMI there is a reissue of Callas singing the title role in *Ponchielli's La Gioconda*. The surrounding Scala forces are nothing special, apart from Cappuccilli at the start of his career in the small role of Barnaba. Callas, though, remains unbearable.

The ladies are the stars of the set. Kati Ricciarelli, as the set, is an enchanting Mimi, timid and flirtatious by turn and atmospheric recording made in Geneva. Chiauropi obliges with *Quixote* suffused with rich melancholy—perhaps this is why the role has so suited East European basses from Chaliapin onwards—but she sings with relishing every tune. Massenet's *Manon* is a searchingly responsive and attentive but a little short on romance.

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## PERSONAL CHOICE



## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

9.05 am Cut and Thrust: how to improve your eye work. Last of the series.

9.30 Multi-Coloured Swap Shop: Noel Edmunds's all-purpose show for children. Guests include Jimmy Savile, the Weather forecast.

12.15 Crossroads: The line-up is: 22.20 Bob Wilson's football review; racing from Ascot at 12.50, 1.30, 1.55 and 2.30; 2.00 Boxing: Pat Thomas v Dave Proudfit; 2.05 World Cup Skating: 2.30 The Winter Games; 2.40 World Gymnastics Championships from Fort Worth, Texas; 3.15 International Show Jumping, from Olympia; 3.45 Half-time scores; 3.50 Rugby League: Leigh v St Helens; 4.30 Cricket: Australia v England.

are Thompson, in *Jazz, Jane Street-Porter, in Saturday and Marriage* (BBC 2, 11.15 pm)

c reason I have not said much about Larry Grayson's *ration Game* (BBC 1, 6.30) is simply that there is not much to say about it. It is unchanging and unchangeable, a two trends have, however, become discernible as the series ends. Is St Clair, Mr Grayson's assistant, emerging as a personality in her own right, having had a sustaining hand to Mr Grayson for some time? Mr Grayson himself is showing that he does not need that as much as he does. He will never be the world's dabbler, nor even the second best. But his more confident gives us hope that, by the time the next series starts, he will be able to fill out more of the large void left behind. Bruce Forsyth crossed the channel to ITV.

omnibus title for an omnibus film, *Jazz, Rock and Marriage* (2, 9.00) casts its net wide and lands a pretty hefty catch, interesting musicals both musical and matrimonial. Barbara is a British jazz musician. She was classically trained, her tenor alto and soprano sax as well as clarinet and flute. Husband Jon Hiseman is a rock star. As spouses, they pulled together very well; they also have two children: her is linking professionally. Mr Hiseman this year his wife's quartet, *Paraphernalia*. Tonight's film illustrates how, in their case at least, two separate—oneistic, the other commercial—can be kept simmering on the hob without boiling over.

t night, ITV regaled us with a show in which the can sing-guitarist John Denver was led into Muppetry. Then the BBC regaled us with a show in which Mr Denver regaled us into the same territory. I shall understand how these things are ordained. As it happens, over is a pleasant singer and the Muppets are irresistible, lasting damage is inflicted on our patience. Also, tonight's box has a Christmas flavour, which last night's did not. BBC 1, 8.10.

weekly serial *Two People* (ITV, 10.15) ends tonight.away teenaged lovers have returned to their respective and to school. Human dogs snog at their heels and are made to pay the price for their seeming folly. The, worked out in Alix Rose's sensitive script, is sensible asable. At no point has this been a love affair in which was made to rhyme with moon.

iam Alwyn's opera *Miss Julie* (Radio 3, 7.30) is not to me, so I shall probably listen to it if only to see how Mr Alwyn managed to translate Strindberg's words into something musical. The Saturday Night Theatre Radio 4, 8.30) sounds like fun. *Burglar's Bargains*, by K. Daly, is about two former stalwarts of a prisoners' aid who plan to rob a London store on sales day. It sounds Ealing comedy.

THE SYMBOLS MEAN: + STEREO; \* BLACK AND WHITE; PEAT.

## BBC 2

1.25 pm Film: *My Side of the Mountain* (1963). Almost true tale of a boy (Teddy Eversole) living alone in the Canadian mountains. Theodore Bikel plays his grown-up Uncle Cosy, plus...

4.05 Play Away: comedy and music show for children. With Brian Cant.

4.30 The Star at Night: repeat of Tuesday's edition in which Patrick Moore and Michael Bentine talk about UFOs and try to reach some conclusions. 5.00 The World About Us: repeat screening of *Down on the Factory Farm* which caused feathers to fly in animal welfare circles.

London Weekend

8.40 am Sesame Street: American style learning, with The Muppets and others.

9.40 The Beachcombers: Children's story-telling. About three schoolgirl kickers.

10.05 Supershow: our hero becomes a diamond thief.

10.30 Tivoli: children's omnibus show. Deliberately lurid in style.

12.30 pm World of Sport: The line-up is: 1.30 *Dickie Davies*.

1.35 On the Ball (Jan St John on Football): 1.00 *The First Great American Truck Race*, from Atlanta, Georgia; 1.15 News; 1.20 The ITV Seven (racing from Notting

5.10 News, with Kenneth Kendall. 5.25 *The Bush Bush Show*: the son's guests are Windsor Davies, the comedy actor, and The New Seekers. Guests include Jimmy Savile, the Weather forecast.

5.25 Multi-Coloured Swap Shop: Noel Edmunds's all-purpose show for children. Guests include Jimmy Savile.

5.30 Film: *Crossroads*: The line-up is: 22.20 Bob Wilson's football review; racing from Ascot at 12.50, 1.30, 1.55 and 2.30; 2.00 Boxing: Pat Thomas v Dave Proudfit; 2.05 World Cup Skating: 2.30 The Winter Games; 2.40 World Gymnastics Championships from Fort Worth, Texas; 3.15 International Show Jumping, from Olympia; 3.45 Half-time scores; 3.50 Rugby League: Leigh v St Helens; 4.30 Cricket: Australia v England.

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## So much space to explore—underfoot

A small band of enthusiasts gathered in London last week to extol the advantages and delights of what they called, rather unaptly, "sub-surface space" or, in layman's language, the underground. The approach was distinctly evangelical.

To these assorted engineers, businessmen and bureaucrats, the concept of underground living was a serious business and no fit subject for jokes about moles, black holes or bomb shelters. Neither was there much encouragement for efforts to draw a connexion between the tunnelling industry, which is said to have fallen on hard times lately, and this most recent attempt to regenerate enthusiasm for an engineering concept that has, after all, been around for at least as long as the Metropolitan Line.

The tunnelling fraternity was, nonetheless, conspicuously present. The occasion was in effect a sales pitch for "Rockstore 80", a symposium on the uses of subsurface space to be held in Stockholm next June, sponsored in part by the Swedish government and the United Nations Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Technology.

So far as public attention has been directed underground at all in recent years, the emphasis has been on new ways of burying and, it is hoped, forgetting, deadly pollutants of various kinds, especially radioactive wastes.

The Rockstore organizers see underground space as a natural resource in itself, and argue that we should not confine our use of it to storing unwanted products from the surface.

Examples of more creative exploitation are surprisingly numerous. In Oslo, the Norwegian national archives occupy 90,000 metres of shelf space underground. More than a million cubic metres of crude oil lie limpid in a rock cavern under the Swedish city of Gothenburg. Throughout the Scandinavian countries, which tend to take the lead in such matters, the subsurface treatment has been applied to cold stores, sewage treatment plants, municipal heating installations, swimming pools and auditoriums.

The Swedes even have a giant wine cellar, where the state monopoly's supplies repose in vast stainless steel urns, and not a cobweb in sight.

Enthusiasm can be infectious, even when the idea itself is not immediately attractive. And underground installations do tend to be energy-saving, non-polluting and reasonably cheap to run. Once the engineers got into their stride last week, the notion of underground offices, factories, even living accommodation, seemed plausible.

Only later did the doubts—mainly an instinctive, probably ineradicable tendency to claustrophobia—set in.

Priceless bits of esoterica tend to surface on such occasions. Never mind the insulating properties of the underground ambience, the ingenious diagrams comparing capital investment, social cost-benefit analysis and temperature dispersal.

These pale into insignificance against the news that only one garbage collector in Stockholm has ever kept his job in retirement age, which are the virtues of above-the-surface waste disposal among the fortitude of the Swedes: for that ownership of land extends, at least in theory, in a wedge shape from the edges of the property to the very centre of the earth.

The discussion of sub-surface space took place at the office of the Swedish trade commissioner, on the fourth floor. The sunburst was low, and the assembled experts seemed to enjoy the view.

Tony Samstag

Mrs Thatcher's driving has responded rather dramatically to those too-knowing predictions that there would have to be a U-turn to avert the economic pile-up. By vowed yet further cuts in public spending next year she is in fact pressing ahead—driving through the lights, or even trying to push past on the wrong side. Take your pick of motoring metaphors.

There can be no doubt here of a deliberate change of policy, but it is a bold one and typically a riskier one. Last month public spending was not being cut only held, so we were told. Now there has been another, tougher look. Of course, the Government has all along been committed to reducing public spending, but it has changed its view of the possible.

About the time of the party conference there had been a faltering of the 1-always-give-it-to-you-straight approach, or at least a muddle of signals. The Prime Minister, in her only published interview so far with a British source (Americans have been better favoured with tomorrow's visit to the United States in mind) professed to *Now* magazine that spending was not in fact being cut. Her interview was not challenge her. But even *Now* is all over the country, and some difficulty explaining why hospital were closing and social services cut. Yet to preserve this undoubted accuracy in terms of overall expenditure, the in-word was "stabilizing", holding spending at this year's level when the White Paper came out last month. Ministers explained that they would have liked to cut more, but that it could not reasonably be done.

Suddenly, for the first time it is openly admitted at Downing Street and at the Treasury that there are to be cuts in real terms in spending, and next year, not later.

The details are not yet clear, but there is no doubt that the ending of indexing of benefit payments is very much in Sir Geoffrey Howe's mind. And the Chancellor is after more than the £500 saving reported that being over and above whatever discount may be extracted from the £1,000 due at the EEC contribution next year. There are harsh political implications in cutting social benefits for those Mrs Thatcher terms the "work-shy" (and strikers' families, too) while preparing to accept unemployment of two million by the end of 1980. But although "remedies" measures will be on offer to steel town in state of shock, the Government seems undeterred by any inflation poll, warning signs of intensifying class divisions.

Why the hardening? Economic colleagues will spell out the fine print. But obviously the constraints of monetary policy compel either an increase in taxes or a further cut in borrowing. To increase income tax would be the worst heresy and failure this Government could imagine, so cuts will have to come in spending.

But Mrs Thatcher has not been uninfluenced by political developments in her own party. Complaints solidified in the Conservative MPs' 1972 Committee two weeks ago that the Government was not going far enough, and movement was slow with spending rate. Possibly high the Government should have been more responsive with this talk of "stabilizing" spending. If we're damned for the cuts, then cut and be damned again, especially manpower, was the way the message went. Don't give in to the anxious "better-noters" either in the civil service or the Cabinet room one chem.

It is this wind from the right quarter that Mrs Thatcher and her economic colleagues have chosen to seek out and catch. Appropriately, it was to the 1922 Committee that Mrs Thatcher gave the news the right-wing wanted. As they banged desks in traditional end-of-term fashion she had a teary reminder that although applause was nice, she hoped they would not "duck the reality"—of the backlash certain to come as hard times get worse.

One way she has sought out this wind is by some remarkably direct contact with her backbenchers. She was recently reported to be dining twice a week, on average, at the Commons with Conservative MPs, the number arranged at random, as it were. Mr Ian Gow, Such contact and access could stand her in good stead in future troubles.

The decision to gamble high on this first year in office, doing perhaps more unpopular things than has any government since the Second World War, has not been unexpected. Sceptics inside the Cabinet counsel that although they are ultimately confident there will be some tempering of the monetarist mania (Mr Denis Healey's term), it will take longer to come from Mrs Thatcher and her team than with other government.

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This is less surprising when put against a more astonishing fact that there has still been no full Cabinet discussion of economic policy. Ministers nor the immediate economy team are presented with decisions taken by colleagues in committee like so many fair accomplishments. There is time for the odd question, but no encouragement for it; their privilege is a little prior notification ahead of the public announcement for the Stock Exchange.

Things have perhaps not changed much since Crossman's time. But the sceptics bide their time. They may indeed be a majority. To imagine that the present Cabinet is made up of right-wingers is clearly inaccurate. At some future fork in the road it would not be a majority that would have to change its mind. But the moment is clearly still a long way off when, say, Whitelaw, Haigman, Carrington, Fy, Soames, Prior, Gilmour, Walker, St John Stevens, or Carlisle (in order only of Cabinet-listing) might move to apply the brakes, if not turn things round.

The full-head team speak openly in terms of a "decade" in power. The Prime Minister puts it at "two or three governments" (under her leadership) being "needed" before things can come out right.

This is the tantalising long-haul American Presidents dreamed of pursuing through "two terms". Mrs Thatcher might ponder in her dash to Washington and New York and back how difficult reelection has become. Two recent incumbents got tattered fixation, by being—conclude by switching from a motororing to a flying metaphor—so transfixed with hitting the damned thing that they flew straight into it.

Every night, a group of fixed young people gather outside a pair of locked gates in London's Soho. At 8pm, the gates are opened, and the Centre point night shelter begins to fill up with the fortunate ones who have managed to get a bed for the night.

Thousands of young people come to London each year with high expectations. They think, they will find a job, a home and a social life among the bright lights. But they have made no plans; many have walked out with very little money after quarrelling with their parents. And when comes a time when the bright lights go out, and London becomes an inhospitable place.

After one or two days in the bright lights, they are probably gone on a night's accommodation in a hostel and a cheap meal, they become desperate.

Alone, without friends, they begin to sleep rough and scrounge for food. Their plight is getting worse as their numbers increase, and those who are trying to help them face an uncertain future with anxiety.

"We are not only anxious, but angry too, because we are afraid that we may not get the money to carry on because of the Government's expenditure cuts," says Mr Nicholas Fenton, Centrepoint's coordinator.

"We see the young coming to London, drifting and the drinking. They try to establish themselves, but it is a difficult task and it is not surprising when they fail. We are here to help, but what will happen to them if we no longer there?"

Exactly 10 years ago, Father Kenneth Leech, then curate of St Anne's Church, Soho, felt that nothing was being done to help the youngsters that he saw sleeping rough around Piccadilly Circus.

The basement of the church was opened as a night shelter. It was rough and ready, mattresses on the floor—but it was better than the streets.

In 1972, Centrepoint was registered as a charity, and Mr Fenton became coordinator in 1975. There are now 13 full-time workers, backed up by about 50 volunteer assistants.

"If we are forced to reduce our service, or close completely, who is going to help the young people who find themselves lost, alone and friendless?"

"This is coming out with adequate support, and I am dunned at our gates by a probation officer or a psychiatrist social worker. And there is a third group: the ones, so only 17 years old, who are on the way to becoming permanent dossiers," he said.

Last year, 2,000 people were taken in, most staying two, three nights. This year the number has increased to 3,000. The Government provided £40,000 last year towards Centrepoint's £82,000 running costs. But those costs will rise to well over £100,000 by year.

"At best, we think that might receive the same amount from government at a time when we need more. This is not because of inflation but because we are seeing increasing numbers of people

"We used to approach a charitable trust for a top-up of our finances, but now we shall be relying on them to a lifeline. But they are getting increased demands from other organizations with similar difficulties. I have problems because I cannot plan more than six months in advance."

"But all around we are seeing voluntary projects a hostels being forced to close, so it is no wonder that we are frightened for Centrepoint."

Centrepoint's staff are increasing of more and more young people, some with "O" level and polytechnic qualifications sleeping rough in back alleys and stations.

"If we are forced to reduce our service, or close completely, who is going to help the young people who find themselves lost, alone and friendless?"

Penny Syme

## Cut, cut and be damned

Fred Emery

Greece is the mother of European culture. But there is a paradox about the special relationship between Britain and Greece. On the one hand more Britons can afford to visit Greece than ever before; there is a mass readership for ancient Greek literature in translation; Greek plays are produced on television, radio, and film, often closely enough to the original Muse not to make Medusa's hair stand on end; there is a popular interest in our cultural roots.

On the other hand the study of Greek is in retreat before more obviously vocational subjects? Surely the only advantage of a classical education these days is that it prepares one to live at peace without the income that it precludes one from earning? A question inviting the answer No.

The founding fathers included such amateurs as Oscar Wilde and Arthur Balfour. Those were golden days for Greek. The inaugural address showed that travel to Greece was more stately than by package holiday: "The Englishman often travels with great advantages, such as the power of visiting out-of-the-way places by yacht." The first vice-president, and then persuaded the government to lend him a warship, an engineer, and sappers for six months for his excavation at Herculaneum.

When the Hellenic Society celebrated its jubilee, it was not one but two leaders to make Demosthenes gash his teeth with envy. In his jubilee address Gilbert Murray put the case for the value of Greek studies: "To escape from the anarchy of momentary desires to the Cosmos of reason; to see beyond the prison of the material present to the 'heavenly places', from which the human spirit draws its life; these seem to me the two needs that are most pressing in the present strange and interesting

and dangerous epoch of world

history, and I know of no better way of meeting both needs than through those Hellenic studies which this society is intended to promote."

Today the case is still unanswered; the needs are even more pressing. The Hellenic Society has celebrated its century fittingly with a colloquium and a delegation to Greece. There is an appeal to consolidate and extend the society's activities; Sir Kenneth Dover at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, will supply further information.

From its beginning the society has conceived Hellenic studies broadly, and its activities today include archaeology and art, language and literature, history and philosophy. Its *Journal*, of which the nine-ninth issue recently

appeared, is its chief ornament and has great international prestige. The unique Archaeological Reports, the library and slides collection, and lectures both in London and the provinces are other important activities.

The president of the society, Geoffrey Kirk, Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge, said: "We want to do more to help those who are fighting tooth and nail to keep teaching and learning of ancient Greek alive. It is the best of our non-nationalist subjects because of its variety, richness and influence."

The society is right to be vigilant. There are forces in our modern world that are inimical to the study of classical and intellectual integrity. But the best are always going to be drawn to read some of the greatest literature ever written in the original, and to study the basis of our culture. Unless barbarism washes us away, the Hellenic Society will stand as a pillar of English civilization until the crack of doom.

Philip Howard

been very different. One of his three main activities, he said, is exploring the universe, "I mean that literally". He described various technological benefits of the space programme and went on: "It will bring the day closer when people will get a greater sense of their unity as people on this planet, as opposed to their parochial differences. While this may be a while in coming, nevertheless, as we expand out in space, as we link the world by the nervous system of satellite communications, we will bring this world closer together."

The Governor spoke about ecology. "My first priority is protecting the earth," he said. "We must stop polluting the streams." The United States must give up nuclear energy, ration petrol, control the import of oil, develop "small-head hydro, biomass, solar, coal gas". We must have more inventions, more craft, more skill.

Mr Brown, evidently, is not like other candidates. They stick to safe banalities, while he strikes out on his own, in search for originality. As a result, his frequently sensible remarks are swamped by the total gibberish of the rest of it.

He was asked about relations between President Carter and Congress, and about his lack of experience in Washington—Mr Carter has been frequently

accused of failing to get legislation passed because of his ignorance of the ways of Washington. Mr Brown observed that Washington and Sacramento are really much the same, facing the same problems and the same differences between legislature and executive—a claim that will hardly win him much respect or many votes, even in California.

Then he went on to observe that congressional resistance to presidential leadership is not a dislike of the man in the White House but a reflection of the pressures put upon each Congressman by the voters of his district and the stresses of the times. Congress has always moved slowly—with such few exceptions as 1933 and the first two years of Lyndon Johnson's presidency. Things will change when the pressures on Congress change, and it is unfair to blame the President for his frustrations.

This is eminently sensible, and a useful corrective to the strident claims of other candidates that what is needed is "leadership"—which each of them professes to be uniquely able to provide.

Mr Brown does not believe in such glib answers. "What I say is not just 'leadership', not just another person, rather a coming together of people of like minds to change the chemistry to create the government.

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## WINTER ELECTION FOR CANADA

The prospect of an election campaign in Canada's February weather must be daunting for any Canadian politician, but probably Mr Joe Clark and the Progressive Conservative Party can see a bright side to the debacle of their defeat on the budget after only six months in office. Since the end of the summer recess, they have had a difficult parliamentary passage, relying for their survival on the restraint of the New Democratic Party and the support of the five Social Credit votes. When Mr Trudeau suddenly announced his decision to retire from the leadership of the Liberal Party, a favourable period must have seemed to be dawning for as early a dissolution as was practicable, since no Liberal to assume his mantle seems available. In the event the opposition parties have combined to force the dissolution at a most inseasonable time. It is now a matter for anxious calculation how the electorate will react to his unnecessary incoherence, and who they will blame and punish for it.

It is difficult to see how Mr Trudeau can continue to stand by his decision to go. The Liberal has been to hold a leadership convention in March, the first since Trudeau swept all other Liberal contenders away and gave Pierre Trudeau a dominant position for eleven years in which no alternative leaders could establish themselves. Mr John Turner and Mr Donald Macdonald have both declared they would not compete in March. Without Mr Trudeau, under some unimpressive compromise interim leader, the liberals would face a winter campaign at a grave disadvantage. Mr Trudeau, after all, himself voted against the budget, knowing the possible outcome. He now seems duty bound. But

his position is still awkward for he can hardly say that he will lead the party only to relinquish office immediately after the proposed convention if the Liberals win; for then the Conservatives would claim the electorate did not know who or what they were voting for on the Liberal ticket. Yet for him now to promise to continue in office if he wins will suggest that Pierre Trudeau is only prepared to serve Canada as the boss, and in no other parliamentary capacity. Mr Trudeau has now had his tiff with the Toronto Liberal bigwigs who think him a liability, but the cost may be heavy.

On the other hand, the Conservative record is not very impressive. It has made little impact. Mr Clark has not fulfilled his pledges on economic growth and lower interest rates—but world, and American, trends have been against him. The "privatization" of the national oil company, while agreeable to Conservative preferences for untrammelled capitalism, goes against Conservative dislike of business and American strangleholds on Canada's economy. There was the gaff about moving the Canadian embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and other symptoms of inexperience of affairs. But at least Mr Clark was getting on sensible terms with the ever-restive provinces. His anti-inflationary budget proposals were appropriate; moreover, six months in office is hardly a fair trial. This the electorate will doubtless note.

There is a feeling in Canada that social forces are moving in favour of the New Democratic Party, led by Mr Broadbent. It is speculated that in a new election—one was expected in any case by summer—they would gain substantially. It was the NDP's motion against raising oil prices

by putting up the excise to bring them in line with world realities, that brought the government down. North Americans find it hard to recognize the unreality of subsidized oil, but the Canadian press is finding Mr Broadbent's action in this case too blatantly political to swallow. It may be that the Canadian voter's will likewise react against the NDP for uncharacteristic opportunism, reflecting that it was perfectly willing to keep a minority, albeit Liberal, government in power between 1972 and 1974, and indeed to make quite a good government of it.

Thus there is a possibility that Mr Clark may emulate Mr Harold Wilson's feat in 1966. But the result is more likely to be another hung federal parliament, and who will emerge as Prime Minister is extremely dubious. But one consideration of great importance ought to be noted: all the signs pointed to Mr Clark making a better job of dealing with the Quebec referendum on secession next year than Mr Trudeau would do. Mr Trudeau's services to Canadian unity are unquestionable. But the referendum could become a family quarrel between himself and Mr Lévesque, between Ottawa and Quebec in a "way" that would give Mr Lévesque important advantages. Mr Clark was clearly relying more upon the growing opposition to secession behind Mr Claude Ryan in Quebec itself; and Mr Clark's intimations that the Canadian constitution was flexible enough to accommodate Quebec's real needs while maintaining Canada as one entity showed a sense of statesmanship in a rising crisis. It will be sad—and not only for Canada, but for Britain and the West—if the beneficiary of this Ottawa debacle is Mr René Lévesque.

The worst fears that I (and others) expressed at the time these powers were proposed to be introduced have now been confirmed and a most daring public attack made upon the liberty of the subject with the full connivance of Parliament.

Despite the plaudits uttered in Parliament that these powers were only needed to deal with "the criminal element", the first major use of the powers has been directed against a well-known tax avoidance group. There is nothing illegal about tax avoidance. It is legal under the law. Nevertheless, because the Revenue suspect fraud (whatever that might mean) they are able to search and take away papers, including children's papers, without having to disclose what offence is suspected.

This means that for the first time in well over 200 years the spectre of the General Warrant has again been raised in English law.

On the last such occasion that it occurred in the early 1760s a prominent English judge said: "To enter a man's house by virtue of a nameless warrant, in order to procure evidence, is worse than the Spanish inquisition: a law under which no Englishman would wish to live an hour: it was a most daring public attack made upon the liberty of the subject."

It now seems that the proverbial Englishman's home is no longer his castle, nor indeed any sort of refuge in 1979. It is but a short time until 1984.

Yours faithfully,  
A. P. NEWBOLD  
The White House,  
Datchet Road,  
Old Windsor,  
Berkshire.

## Inland Revenue's powers of search

From Mr Anthony P. Newbold

Sir, Between May and June 1976 you were kind enough to print several letters from me warning against the extensive powers of search that the then Government were proposing to grant to the Inland Revenue. The warnings were unheeded and the powers were granted.

These powers have now been used and tried and tested in the Courts in the Rosemister Case culminating in the judgment of the House of Lords reported in your columns today (December 14).

The worst fears that I (and others) expressed at the time these powers were proposed to be introduced have now been confirmed and a most daring public attack made upon the liberty of the subject with the full connivance of Parliament.

Despite the plaudits uttered in Parliament that these powers were only needed to deal with "the criminal element", the first major use of the powers has been directed against a well-known tax avoidance group. There is nothing illegal about tax avoidance. It is legal under the law. Nevertheless, because the Revenue suspect fraud (whatever that might mean) they are able to search and take away papers, including children's papers, without having to disclose what offence is suspected.

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## Cuts and church schools

From Mr G. E. Hester

Sir, In your article December 6, on secondary school reorganization and Highbury Grove School, Mr Ronald Butt fails to distinguish fact from fiction.

There are outright opponents of church schools, but the Conservative Party has not been numbered among them. Yet its proposed education Bill, by relieving local authorities of the necessity of providing free transport to schools, will have a devastating effect on church schools.

The advice of ILEA officers to their education committee was that this process should take place through a series of amalgamations, involving all 16 schools, rather than by closure, which would involve

closure



PORT

icket

## England's hold loosened by Hughes

John Woodcock  
Correspondent

England came tantalisingly close to a firm hold of the first match against Australia here. First when Australia, having put in, were 20 for three, then again when they were 127 for eight. That Australia finished day at a relatively respectable 188 was due mainly to the fact that, with some valuable help from his fellow West Australian, he accounted for 124.

England, Botham had a

miracle day, bowling into the

pace for the first three hours of

the first five days for one

before, by 11.30, taking

the first five wickets

II, and answering every call

captain made on him,

the ball moving about a

few millimetres, the day—the

new ball moved about

Botham strove, more for

pace than pace. His great

grip kept him going

(his for the day were

7.47),

now, too, he was spurred

by remarks made by one of

the more brash Australians,

as Thomson, that he is not

like the cricketer he has been

in the field. England were mostly

lost, though two chances were

there. Willis should have

caught Toohey when he was

and Taylor should have

caught Marsh of Underwood

in the very last over.

Botham, and father of a

swipe, was

as he was when he was

and Hughes had

39 runs here, today.

Botham, aged 18, led a spirited

back-biting 75 as Tasmania

replied with 45 for no wicket.

Croft, a pace of 100, well

up to his usual, was the

best bowler, though he was

scattered, and the 20 overs

had been delayed for 85

minutes because of heavy over-

rain. In the end, it was

not a question of whether or

not to take the new

ball, but whether or not to

take the new ball.

Botham, having

had a good start, but

then, with 10 overs to go,

he was 100, and he was

scattered, and he was

## SPORT

## Rugby Union

## Scotland are looking for better form from their backs

By Peter West  
Rugby Correspondent

There can be no doubt where most of Scotland's selectors will gather this afternoon, because 15 internationals and seven 5 players play at Oldenberg in the district championship match between Edinburgh and the South. Most of these players must be in contention for a place in the first Scotland side of the 1980-81 season, which begins on February 10—and there are some intriguing confrontations which may, or may not, inspire more confidence after a depressing defeat against New Zealand.

Today is the disappointing feature that day was the collective failure of a back division in which the new centre, David Johnston, was the one player to emerge with a reputation. On the other side, Jim Renwick, the most capped of Scottish centres, needed to reassess himself—he did well with some panache, when the South scored nine tries in their 54-19 victory over Scottish North and Midlands last week.

Renwick is now partnered by the Scottish wing, Keith Robertson, who has been switched by his district to return to the centres, replaced by the back he has been partnered. These two will be opposed by Johnston and his Warsonian colleague, Ewan Kennedy, who is no mean performer in his own right.

The Scottish scrum half, Alan Lawson, has been below par this season, although he had a fine game for Edinburgh against the All Blacks. He now faces a strong challenge from the South captain, Roy Ladlow, who scored a couple

of tries and played strongly in all respects for the B XV in Dublin earlier this month.

There should be an illuminating tussle between the props: the South pair, Jim Aitken and Norman Pender, will feel they have something to prove after being left out of the Scottish training party. Aitken, previously a full international, who played eight head against New Zealand, Pender against Jim Burnett, a B player generally regarded as the heir apparent to Ian McNaughton on the long-term side.

As luck, the selectors will be looking for no more than a reassuring performance from Alan Tones. They will put closer watch perhaps on his southern colleagues, Tom Smith, whose six reserves for England's trial at Twickenham on January 5 and their choices will be announced on Monday. A host of new selections, in fact, will be added to the list each week, as all four of the countries have their national trials the following week.

One of England's problems, judged by the man in charge, New Zealand, remains the need for new thinkers in midfield. Cuthbert, the stand-off, hardly did himself justice in that match and was presumably under orders to look for a new role.

Tones has the opportunity to show his talents as a runner for Leicestershire against Bristol on Saturday, when several England candidates will be staking their claims. David Melling began the season as favourite for the England stand-off place, will also be watched closely on his return to Coventry's team against Gloucester at Compton Road.

In London a familiar face returns to Northampton second team, Wayne P. Evans. The former British Lions lock, making his first appearance with the club for five years, Larmer, who has been serving with the Royal Air Force in Germany, completed the line-up. London Welsh, who had lost by 50 points to Cardiff last week, have declined to make wholesale changes but introduce a new flanker, Rhodri Samuel, against London Irish at Old Deer Park.

The Welsh, after a disappointing season need to win this game against the visitors. Wayne P. Evans, British Lions three-quarter, has been out of action for nearly a month with a troublesome ankle injury. He plays on the wing and his inclusion is one of six changes from the side beaten at Aberavon.

Newport's captain, Gareth Evans, will be back to lead the 1977 cup holders at Rodney Parade against P. E. G. Evans' Welsh team. British Lions three-quarter, has been out of action for nearly a month with a troublesome ankle injury. He plays on the wing and his inclusion is one of six changes from the side beaten at Aberavon.

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Personal investment and finance, pages 18 and 19

All your gift problems solved with  
VICTORIA WINE  
CHRISTMAS GIFT TOKENS

• Send £100 and over 800 gift items  
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beer, liqueurs and cigars.

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

### Stock markets

FT Ind 431.00 up 9.5  
FT Gics 65.4 up 0.5

### Sterling

\$2.1985 down 55 points  
Index 69.8 (the same)

### Dollar

Index 85.8 up 0.5

### Gold

\$457.00 an ounce down 54

### 3-month money

Inter-bank 164 to 143/16

Euro 5 14 to 14 13/16

### IN BRIEF

### Casino chief resigns

### Coral

Mr Bryan Sherley-Dale last week resigned as managing director of Coral Leisure's British Kingdom casino division.

His resignation follows that of the division's chairman, main board director, Mr. Mervyn Corral, earlier this month.

Mr. Sherley-Dale and Mr. Mervyn Corral face charges of conspiring to pervert the course of justice after police at the group's four London casinos last month.

In a statement last night, Mr. Sherley-Dale said that he fully refuted allegations against him and that he had acted "in the best interests of the company and for no reason".

### Sh drain on societies

Building Society receipts

wed last month as investors

and their savings elsewhere

response to high interest

rates.

Figures from the Building

Society Association show that

November societies had net

receipts of £134m compared

£544m in October.

During November, the rates

rose 1.6 per cent to 10.80

and a further 1.75m was

raised, but the outlook for

interest rates in the economy

subsidised.

### land in Rhodesia

British Leyland is taking

initial steps to resume

trading of commercial vehicles

in the former Rhodesia.

Mr. Eric Lewis, managing

director of the British Leyland

subsidiary, said yesterday.

### Asbury Bills

The average rate at which

new Asbury Bills were allotted at

weekly tender fell again

today, the fourth drop in

consecutive weeks. Yesterday's

record of £300m of bills attracted

applications for £1.14m.

Investor's week, page 20

### Leave Orion Bank

The top executives are

leaving Orion Bank to join

Bank Corporation, which

is extending its Eurobond

and trading activities

abroad. The departures in-

clude Mr. Andrew Large, one

of Orion's five managing

directors.

### Meccano talks

Meccano Industries management

member, Mr. David Mitchell,

Secretary of State for

Industry, on Monday to discuss

the company's decision to close

its Meccano plant in Liver-

pool two weeks ago.

### S head resigns

William Farrow has re-

signed as chairman of the Co-

operative Wholesale Society

three years just as CWS

began discussions on re-

signing Sir Arthur Suggen, its

executive, who is due to

next September.

### Street lively

New York Stock Ex-

change yesterday saw the

trading this week at

1,000 shares as the Dow

industrial average rose

to 342.75, its best level

October 11.

## Balance of payments shows sharp improvement as trade deficit falls to £56m

By Caroline Addison

Britain's trade performance improved dramatically last month, though much of the improvement was due to "one-off" factors, such as the ending of the engineering dispute. The visible trade deficit shrank to £56m in November, the smallest monthly trade gap this year. In October the deficit totalled £329m.

Sterling gained in late trading because the figures were better than expected, although it still closed down on the day against the dollar. The pound finished at \$2.1995 against the dollar in London and rose above that later in New York.

The current account deficit, which includes invisible trade in services as well as visible trade, totalled an estimated £6m last month. This compares with a deficit of £289m in October and £85m in September. So far this year the current account has been £2.20m in the red. The Government forecast a deficit of £2.00m for this year and one of £2.00m in 1980 in the Treasury forecasts published last month.

Exports rose by £161m last month to a record £3.738m. The ending of the engineering dispute is thought to have accounted for much of the export gain. There was a part-

icular marked rise in exports of machinery and road vehicles in November.

Another special factor which helped the trade figures was an improvement in the oil balance. There was a deficit of £12m on the oil account in November, much smaller than the October figure of £285m.

Imports fell by £122m last month from their £122m level. However, the seemingly inexorable rise in Britain's imports of vehicles continued.

Monthly trade figures are erratic, and a better guide to trends can be obtained from a three-month comparison. On this basis the recent improvement disappears. The visible trade balance deteriorated from a deficit of £455m between June and August to one of £542m in the three months to November.

Although the volume of exports rose sharply in November, it showed no change on a three-month basis. If trade in erratic items such as ships, aircraft and precious stones is excluded then export volumes dropped by 1 per cent between the periods June-August and September-November.

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## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

International bonds

## Currency choice widens the options

With the lifting of exchange control regulations in October, investors waded a not-so-fond farewell to the volatile dollar premium. But those investing abroad should not underestimate the risk they are still taking when it comes to fluctuating exchange rates. Just how much they are exposed to these movements, which can be quite sharp, depends on how the money is invested abroad.

Single premium bonds linked to a life company's international fund is one way an investor can get a stake in overseas markets. There are now around 30 such funds from which to choose, the majority investing in a wide variety of countries.

Just where the money is invested varies from fund to fund. Not surprisingly the American market, which accounts for some 55 per cent of world stock market capitalization, often makes up a good chunk of the fund's portfolio. But both the M & G and Trident international bond funds have a comparatively low exposure to Wall Street coupled with higher than average investments in countries in the Pacific Basin.

Chief risk fund managers also pursue this policy. Its international unit trust, which provides the underlying single premium bond link, is 70 per cent invested in the Pacific Basin with the remainder in both American and United Kingdom special situation shares.

Two funds with an "international" banner—Merchant Investors and Solar—are totally invested in Wall Street—although the managers do not intend that this will always be the case.

If this is what you want you can also consider the £8m Hambro American Fund or the United States Invested Funds run by Cannon and Trident. At present standing at £5.2m and £2.7m respectively. Alternatively some groups—such as

its new money directly.

These companies have no hard and fast rules as to how they will invest their funds in the future. This very much depends on their views at any time on a particular currency vis-à-vis sterling.

Conversely, the policy at Merchant Investors, says managing director Edward Fairman, is to reduce the exchange rate risk as much as possible. To this end it therefore intends to carry on investing entirely through local facilities.

At present, investment managers are still digesting the possibilities of the new regulations following the abolition of exchange control. They now have the opportunity, if not the expertise, to invest both in stock markets and currency markets.

For example, £100 destined for Wall Street can be split so that the dollar equivalent of £50 is invested directly in the market. The remainder gives collateral against a dollar loan also invested in the United States. But this collateral does not necessarily have to be held in sterling—a short-term fixed interest security say in Deutsche Bank could provide a better return.

Such a proposition brings a variety of reactions from fund managers. While with Vanbrugh it "seems likely" it will invest part of its money in this way, some fund managers dismiss it out of hand on the basis that it is too risky and not what the investors wants. Other fund managers are still considering the possibilities while some frankly admit that at the moment they have not the expertise but it is certainly a future possibility.

In any event investors should check the policy of the fund managers so that he knows exactly what sort of risk he is taking in international investment.

Sally Michael

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More information, also,

could be given in renewal

notices, particularly those for

household insurances. Many

householders now have their

policies "index-linked",

whereby the sum insured is

updated each month in line

with a suitable index. Each

year the premium is calcu-

lated on the updated value.

Clearly, when insurance is

on that basis, each annual

premium will be higher than

the last. A number of in-

surers have, however, also

increased the rate of pre-

mium applied.

This week's figure from the

banking system brought little

comfort either. They were

nowhere near as bad as the last

set which forced the Govern-

ment to raise its minimum lend-

ing rate from 14 to 17 per cent,

but they did all the same show

improvement, while for more

information see the box on

page 12.

More information could be

given about that, so that a

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EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

ous

**leading  
or a  
25%  
increase**

One month's figures yet come, house prices look set for a 25 per cent rise in 1979, sounding the predictions of pundits who believed that the leap of 22 per cent was speculative.

However, sticking my neck this time, it really does seem likely that house prices in 1980 will show such dramatic increases. The outlook could hardly be worse. Mortgage funds, both expensive and scarce, are likely to remain so until next year. Although there are those wishful of an early fall in interest rates, most of the Budget that the break-first appear. Whether mortgage interest rates will bleed down speedily is not clear.

The Building Societies Association is again talking about a

interest rate structure which would enable societies to make the mortgage rate stable and the lending investment rates move more rapidly.

It is a good idea but can only be achieved by widening the gap between the mortgage and investment rates. I suspect that societies will find it politically and socially unacceptable to reduce the investment next year without altering mortgage rate too.

Borrowers whose mortgages five years old or more may be paying 11 per cent of net income to the mortgage, even after the rise in the interest rate to 15 per cent at the beginning of month, but the immediate reactions on the family budget will be unpleasant.

The actual cost of a mortgage rise by around 24 per cent

annually, and for the time being the increase will be even

because of the island's inability to cope with necessary adjustments to the tax code. This is as that until the Revenue

lets its finger out—which we

been warned, will not be

next April—most people

## The Times/Halifax house price index

Monthly Index of average prices of second-hand houses (Seasonally adjusted)

Index	Average price (£)	% change over the preceding year	6 months	3 months
1977 December	100.0	14,757		
1978 March	105.8	15,579	15.5	8.8
September	109.3	16,133	16.9	9.3
October	112.2	17,450	23.0	12.0
November	117.4	17,526	20.0	13.5
December	119.9	17,681	21.9	14.8
1979 January	121.1	17,866	21.1	10.7
February	127.8	18,783	24.8	10.5
March	130.5	19,259	23.6	10.4
April	131.7	19,441	27.3	12.2
May	136.2	20,094	30.4	13.6
June	138.4	20,341	26.1	19.5
July	142.6	21,038	26.2	16.0
August	145.2	21,427	26.0	14.1
September	145.5	21,480	23.1	11.5
October	149.5	22,065	27.4	13.5
November	151.4	22,339	26.3	11.2

Average regional prices of second-hand houses			
November	Previous month	£	% change over 3 months
North	16,667	16,903	-2.0
Yorks and Humberside	15,519	14,950	7.5
North-west	18,395	17,987	4.1
East Midlands	17,234	17,386	-0.7
East Anglia	19,501	19,133	1.3
Wales	20,711	20,393	4.0
South-west	17,728	17,344	2.3
South-east	23,539	23,529	3.8
Greater London	30,426	30,208	6.0
Northern Ireland	21,585	22,211	-2.3
Scotland	20,476	20,360	2.7

will face an increase of 45 per cent in their mortgage outgoings.

These factors are likely to act as a deterrent to those who would normally be seeking to trade up next year. The recent upsurge in both house prices and incomes has meant that more couples are turning over their houses earlier and younger.

Some 60 per cent of owner occupiers trading up are under 35 years of age and the life of a typical mortgage is now down to about 50 years. However, if prices do accelerate, vendors are more likely to take their houses off the market for several months, if not longer,

rather than sell at prices too much below expectations.

There are already signs that the underlying rate of increase in house prices is slackening. Second-hand house prices on a seasonally adjusted basis rose by 1.2 per cent in November. The regional house price indicators show a downturn in the North, East and West Midlands and Wales.

Although the indicators do not show that this is happening in the Greater London area, anecdotal evidence does suggest that the number of transactions in Greater London has fallen very sharply.

Cawdaw plans to acquire

## A wife's investment income

### Former husband's debt

ough my husband and I have separated my dividends are deemed to be the sole of my husband. This means that he pays a per cent investment income as well as being at the higher rates of tax. As my husband is unemployed I am the winner and I feel the income should be to me. The tax tell me this is not possible. This strikes me as an exceptionally unequal opportunity. Could the tax office be informed?" (G. H. Mander).

The tax laws stand at a woman is regarded as the chattel of her husband and all her income is to be his. The only exception is that earnings (not savings income) of the wife be taxed separately if both husband and wife are elected the wife's earnings elect.

Provide the combined me is sufficient to high a will be a tax saving under election—otherwise there is no in making a claim and there will be a tax loss, a general guide the combined gross income for the next tax year needs to be £15,000 for a claim to be allowed.

As far as the investment in concerned the husband claim only one exemption (at present £5,000 of gross me) even though both his wife may each receive benefit amount.

number of politicians and are urging equal opportunity under the tax laws and may well see a change for better in the not too distant future.

years ago when my ring was dissolved, a court order was made providing my husband should pay me up sum of £4,000. He has nothing. Our former home occupied by him and is used by him and his brother tenants in common under a let for sale. My former husband has no assets or resources can I get the lump sum was ordered? (N.R. London)

cause of the court order, former husband is a judgment debtor. It would be point to take out a judgment against him to him to prison for his failure to observe the court order, as he has no assets out of which to satisfy this judgment, except his interest in the house. A long-winded way of enforcing a sale would be to apply to your husband made bankrupt and his trustees in liquidated would be able to proceedings to enforce sale of the house. A more method is for you to go to the court for the removal of a receiver by of equitable execution over former husband's interest. The receiver may also be in power by the court to



### Readers' Forum

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of John Drummond, Vera Di Palma, Ronald Irving and Eric Brunet.

take any such proceedings in your former husband's name as may be necessary to enforce the sale of the property.

We have been living in our new house for some months. Since we have moved in, I have noticed a vacant area on the other side of the footpath which leads to my back garden. There are no fences around that area or around my garden. The area is shown on the deeds as "vacant plot" and it is of no use to any other property except mine. I have made inquiries of the local council who confirm that it does not belong to them and they are unable to locate the owner. I should like to know what I must do to acquire ownership of this plot. (M. R. S. Rainham)

In order to establish ownership of the plot in question you will need to occupy it for a period of at least 12 years.

Occupation means exercising rights of ownership. If you do not do this, you could sell the plot to another—I appreciate it would not be a new car. Can I force their hand in any way?

Usually it is up to the buyers to take that type of decision, depending on cost. Of course, when the car has been repaired, you could sell it and buy something else, although naturally, you would expect to lose something on such a deal.

Our household now includes two ponies, plus sundry other livestock. They would be expensive to replace and so I am thinking of insuring them. I know I could make a claim should it be necessary, for humane reasons, for either of them to be destroyed. What, however, is the position if a pony should be disabled, and thus no longer able to take part in its normal activities? (C. Tombridge.)

Insured do not take the same line. Presumably, you might want to destroy the animal thoroughly fit replacement. One company which will pay the full value of its expression is the General Accident. Not all the others are quite so generous.

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 15 1979

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### B Fertleman: return to profit is nearer

By Our Financial Staff

South London furniture makers B. Fertleman & Sons appears to have stemmed the tide of losses during the first six months to September 30, 1979. Even so, the first-half loss is £209,000 against £145,000 in the same period last year. But this is considerably better than the preceding six months when the company reported losses of £525,000.

The Camberwell company managed a small gain in turnover during the period under review, ahead by £220,000 but it was not enough to get in back into the black.

Since the company made losses in 1978 of more than £500,000 the board has taken steps to remedy the situation.

The Chairman, Mr John Swanborough, says that during the first six months of the current year the group has improved performance in lines with the corporate plan.

Changes have taken place within the group, some of which have resulted in further recurring costs. These, together with a more critical approach to certain of Fertleman's accounting policies, have resulted in exceptional charges totalling £95,253.

He says the underlying performance of the group is encouraging and most of the primary objectives are being achieved.



Mr John Swanborough, chairman of B. Fertleman.

Mr Swanborough strikes an optimistic note for the current half by saying that the group made a profit in September and October and the board expects to show a surplus by the end of the present six months. Fertleman's new range of furniture, introduced during the summer, has been well received by the chairman, and the order books are strong. But he concludes it would be imprudent to forecast the year-end results.

### Cawdaw falls 66 pc

By Our Financial Staff

Increased interest rates were a major factor in reducing Cawdaw Industrial Holdings' profits by £100,000 at the half-way stage. Sales rose by 12 per cent to £7m but pretax profits fell 66 per cent from £152,000 to £52,000 after interest charges of £154,000 in the six months to September 30, 1979. Interest payments amounted to £108,000 at the same time last year.

The group has decided to close three of its eight dye houses, making 220 people redundant, to reduce the high proportion of its capital employed in yarn dyeing. The move should lead to an improvement in profit potential and will release funds for investment in the group's timber and kitchen furniture operation, said the board.

Both the kitchen furniture manufacturing and timber importing operations met the forecast sales and profit figures which have been hit by pressure on margins from cheap imports, as well as interest increases.

But although the current level of profitability is improving, recovery to acceptable profit levels cannot be achieved quickly, he stressed. In common with previous years there is no interim dividend payment.

Cawdaw plans to acquire

three retail outlets in the home improvement and kitchen extension market and negotiations are near completion. This will help to reduce the group's dependence on its textile activities which have been hit by pressure on margins from cheap imports, as well as interest increases.

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### Slip at G M Firth

By Rosemary Unsworth

Profits and sales showed a drop in the first half at G. M. Firth (Metals), the Bradford steel stockholders. Pre-tax profits dipped from £94,000 to £89,000 and turnover fell by 22 per cent to £3.1m in the six months to September 30, 1979. Trading profit was almost halved to £106,000 during the period.

Chairman, Mr Gerrard Leadbeater, said that although there was no promise of growth in the present economic climate, the group was now able to concentrate "single minded" on furthering business" following the outcome of the court case against the company. "The board much regrets that this

matter has for so long overshadowed the solid progress the company has made in recent years to strengthen its assets and liquidity."

Mr Leadbeater was fined £5,000 and given a one year suspended prison sentence on charges of conspiracy to defraud and issue forged documents in October. The charges involved a conspiracy to sell foreign steel as British steel and related to subsidiary, G. M. Firth (Steelstock).

The interim dividend has been maintained at 2.14p gross and second half profits are likely to be the same as the first, compared with last year's full year results of £183,000 profit.

Greene, King up 10 pc

By Rosemary Unsworth

The interim dividend has been increased from 3.145p gross to 5.71p. An EGM will be held in February to approve a one-for-one scrip issue and to adopt a profit sharing scheme for employees.

The group is planning to spend £2m on its pubs during the current year.

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Gilt surge ahead and equities try to follow

The stock market finished the first leg of the long-finished week account on a firm note yesterday, achieved mainly on the back of another strong performance by Government securities.

Once again dealers reported a slow start to the morning's proceedings which meant many of the leaders were marked lower. This resulted in a few buyers

**Birmingham brokers** Albert E. Sharp, well known as one of the best engineering analysts, are expected to launch a new type of trust next week specialising in investment in medium and small unquoted companies of which, of course, the West Midlands has more than its

14 per cent 1998-01 loan tap for the first time at £600.

This in turn provided for firmer conditions among equities after hours where dealers experienced some pockets of selective buying. A point borne out by the FT Index which after being 6.4 up at 3.3 am went to close 9.5 up at 431.0; a rise on the week of 10.3 (2.4 per cent).

Fisons featured prominently among leading industrials where the presence of two buyers among the institutions put up the price 17p to 254p in a thin market. Glaxo was also 7p stronger at 443p while gains of 4p were noted in ICI at 373p, Unilever at 458p and Beecham at 122p. Dunlop improved 1p to 54p and Pilkington firmed 1p to 207p and the new by the same amount to 8p premium.

The building sector was a firm spot mainly carried along with the remainder of the market. Taylor Woodrow was 8p higher at 339p and Blue Circle Industries improved 10p to 242p. Tunnel Holdings 'B' was 5p better at 304p while Rugby Portland was a penny firmer at 53p. After a dull start, stores, another sector to switch around and follow the lead of gils, showed good gains with most shares closing at the top. Mothercare was the most noted performance, rising 10p to 192p but GUS 'A' shed 1p to 354p.

Others to make headway included B & Q (Retail) 9p up at 354p. Others to make headway included B & Q (Retail) 9p up at

91p, Boots 3p better at 165p and Marks & Spencer a penny firmer at 82p.

Shares of Burnett Hallamshire 15p up at 480p and AAH 2p better at 115p were wanted mainly on their coal mining activities. Speculative activity surrounded Friedland Doggett 9p better at 102p, APY 13p higher at 188p and BTR 12p stronger at 288p. The latest fare concessions offered by European Ferries to its cross channel passengers was good enough for a 4p hike at 981p left Letraset 4p better at 134p. Unigate (figures due next week) 2p higher at 114p and Stonehill 3p to the good at 118p.

Properties maintained their recent recovery with MTPC 50 up at 165p ahead of next week's figure. Baseline was another bright spot 12p to the good at 274p and Hammerson 'A' in ex rights form dipped 5p to 695p while Land Securities increased 10p to 274p. Mines and Consolidated Gold Fields edged ahead a further 2p to 377p.

Properties were mostly unchanged while the major clearing banks showed rises of between 3p and 5p.

Equity turnover on December 13 was £83.677m (11,947 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Royal Dutch, GEC Distillers, Ultramar, ICL GUS 'A', Unigate, Marks & Spencer, Bowater, R.T.Z. & Consolidated Gold Fields and Land Securities.

Following this week's sparkling performance although the Gold Mines index rose 3.1 to 266.4. Elsewhere in mines, Zambian Copper Investments improved 5p to 29p and Consolidated Gold Fields edged ahead a further 2p to 377p.

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## Stock Exchange Prices Gilt's active

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began: Dec 10. Dealings End: Dec 27. Contango Day: Dec 28. Settlement: Day Jan 7

Forward bookings are permitted on two previous days.





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APPOINTMENTS VACANT ... 10  
BUSINESS TO BUSINESS ... 10  
DOMESTIC SITUATIONS ... 10  
EDUCATIONAL ... 10  
ENTERTAINMENTS ... 8, 22  
FINANCIAL ... 10  
HOME AND GARDEN ... 22  
LEGAL NOTICES ... 22  
POSTAL SHOPPING ... 10  
PROPERTY ... 10  
PUBLIC NOTICES ... 10  
SECRETARIAL AND  
NON-SECRETARIAL  
APPOINTMENTS ... 10

Box No longer used for classified  
advertisements. See page 102  
New Feature: House Share  
Buy and Rent, Letters to C.I.E.  
To place an advertisement in  
any of these categories, telephone

PRIVATE ADVERTISERS  
ONLY ... 01-837 3311  
APPOINTMENTS ... 01-739161

PROPERTY/ESTATE  
AGENTS ... 01-739 2311  
PERSONAL TRADE ... 01-739 0251

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Queries in connection with  
notices that have  
appeared other than cancel-  
lations or alterations, tel:  
Classified Queries Department  
01-837 1234, ext. 780.

All advertisements are subject  
to the conditions of acceptance  
of Times Newspapers Limited,  
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on request.

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YOUR AD.

We make every effort to avoid  
errors in advertisements. Each  
one is carefully checked and  
proof read. When thousands of  
advertisements are handled  
each day, mistakes do occur and  
we ask therefore that you check  
any ad and if you find an  
error, return it to Classified  
Queried Department immediately  
by telephoning 01-837 1234  
(Ext. 780). We regret that we  
cannot be responsible for more  
than one day's incorrect  
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will be applied to the advertise-  
ment. On any subsequent query  
regarding the cancellation, this  
Stop Number must be quoted.

BE CAREFUL for nothing is  
in every thing in prayer and  
supplication with thanksgiving for  
your health and the health of  
those you love. —Philippines 4.

BIRTHS

BOYS.—On December 1st, 1979,  
to Frances (nee Bartoli) and  
John (nee) Pio, of Piochot Clave.

BROWN.—On December 1st, 1979,  
to Sarah (nee Powers) and Alex, a  
son, in Hospital, London.

BROWN.—On December 1st, 1979,  
to Jean (nee) and daughter, Jessica, at  
Brixton.

CLARK.—On December 1st, 1979,  
to St. Thomas' Hospital, London,  
daughter, Elizabeth Sarah Anni.

CLARK.—On December 1st, 1979,  
to Michael (nee) and Patrick, a  
son, John, in Hospital, London.

CLARK.—On December 1st, 1979,  
in Hong Kong, to Thelma  
and daughter, a son, Timothy.

CLARK.—On December 1st, 1979,  
to St. Thomas' Hospital, London,  
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